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Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Cause for Concern

North Korea's weekend missile launches show the communist country is improving its capability and accuracy and are a cause for concern, officials said Sunday.

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Inos: Slight drop in projected revenue for last quarter. **PAGE 3**

Alcohol-related traffic offenses remain high in CNMI. **PAGE 5**

NMC receives WASC nod

CNMI's lone tertiary institution accredited through 2012

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After over a year in show cause status, Northern Marianas College on Saturday announced that the Western Association of Schools and Colleges reaffirmed its accreditation for another four years and through 2012.

See NMC on Page 4

5 US congressmen briefly visit Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five members of the U.S. House of Representatives led by Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee chair Cong. David Price (D-NC) briefly visited Saipan from Saturday night to yesterday noon, which also gave the Saipan Chamber of Commerce a chance to bring up their request for the inclusion of Chinese and Russian tourists in the visa waiver program by Nov. 28, among other things.

See CONGRESSMEN on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Panda mascots and the lion dance by the Chinese Association of Saipan are among the crowd favorites at the Liberation Day parade on Saturday. The festivities marked the 63rd anniversary of the opening of Camp Susupe after the war on July 4, 1946. Inset shows some of the dignitaries, including Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and first lady Josie Fitial, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela who is also the grand marshal, and Capt. Alan Moore, Navy chief of staff in the Marianas and his wife Amy. See photo spread on pages 6 and 7.



Liberation Day festivities draw over 5K

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite overcast skies and the constant threat of heavy downpour, over 5,000 community members took part in the Liberation Day festivities last Saturday.

Police estimated that as early as 1pm,

thousands had lined up on both sides of Beach Road leading up to the Garapan Fishing Base to take a glance of the parade, highlighted by colorful entries and amazing performances and exhibitions.

Since Tuesday, people were seen pitching their tents along the main thor-

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RELATED NEWS

- UFO wins best float in Lib Day festival.
- At least 155 Falun Dafa practitioners in CNMI, Japan, Taiwan, Korea join parade. **PAGE 2**



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Local

UFO wins best float in Lib Day festival

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization emerged victorious last Saturday when its entry won the best float competition during the Liberation Day festival after besting four other contenders.

Judges gave their unanimous approval to the entry that they believed best depicted this year's Liberation Day theme "Path for Peace."

The winner of \$1,000 cash prize emphasized that the replica of the globe in front of the float represents the world wherein people of different



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The United Filipino Organization bagged the first place in the float competition during the Liberation Day parade on Saturday, followed by Northern Marianas College and the San Jose village.

racess, nationalities, beliefs, customs, traditions, and practices co-exist and live in harmony with one another.

A giant white dove that overlooks the earth, being the symbol of peace and hope, signifies the need to inculcate in people's minds the tenets of peace so every human being can live in harmony and understanding in the planet called earth.

The float champion was also decorated by an aging tree trunk and green-colored plants which the dove perched. It signifies the need for a strong foundation for every effort to bring forth peace and understanding among people.

Meanwhile, the colorful repli-

See UFO on Page 4

At least 155 Falun Dafa practitioners in CNMI, Japan, Taiwan, Korea join parade

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This year's Liberation Day parade saw the biggest contingent of Falun Gong or Falun Dafa practitioners, with at least 127 practitioners from Taiwan, Korea, and Japan joining their 28 colleagues in the CNMI.

Yang Chun, a Chinese newspaper publisher and spokesperson for Falun Dafa in the CNMI, said the Falun Dafa practitioners in the CNMI invited those from other Asian countries to join them this year at the biggest cultural parade.

"With so many Falun Dafa in the parade, we hope to tell more people that Falun Dafa is good. Most Chinese are told by the Chinese government that Falun Dafa is evil," said Yang, adding that more may be invited next year.

In an interview at the parade grounds, Yang said there were over 70 Falun Dafa practition-

ers from Taiwan, 50 from Japan and seven from Korea. They joined the 28 practitioners in the CNMI.

Falun Gong is an ancient form of refining the body and mind through special exercises and meditation. The group's participation in a silent, non-violent protest in 1999 against a renewed effort by the Chinese government to clamp down on spiritual movements caught Beijing's attention, which has since then launched several attempts to stamp out the group.

Falun Gong said thousands of its practitioners have been tortured, persecuted and killed by the Chinese government.

In the CNMI, some members of Falun Gong have sought—and have been granted refugee status.

Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan), during the parade, said it is interesting to note that Falun Gong members have "dominated" the parade this year.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Falun Dafa practitioners in the CNMI in their colorful costumes perform a meditative dance number at the Liberation Day parade on Saturday.

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

Inos: Slight drop in projected revenue for last quarter

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidEE_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said if there's going to be a change in revenue projection for the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2009, it might only be "slight," but reiterated that the projected over-expenditure for the whole year remains between \$9 million and \$12 million.

Inos, who has been tasked by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to oversee all government finances, said they still project \$35 million in revenue between July and September.



Inos

"We're still looking at a straight line, about \$35 million. We're still tracking. If there's a change, there might be some minor change but not a whole lot," he said in an interview after the Liberation Day parade on Saturday.

The \$9 million to \$12 million in over-expenditure or the expenditure over the budget for FY 2009 was mainly due to the lack of austerity measures that the Fitial administration had asked for since last year, said Inos.

The House and the Senate have been waiting for any re-

vised revenue projection from the administration for both the last quarter of FY 2009 and for FY 2010.

"If there's going to be changes, it will only be a slight change, for both the last quarter of 2009 and for FY 2010. But 2010, we still have a lot of time," Inos added.

On Wednesday, the Senate rejected the House concurrent resolution on the FY 2010 budget, and Senate Pres. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) named three senators to a conference committee but House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) said this may not be necessary and will just work out on the issue with the Senate.

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LIBERATION

From Page 1

oughfare in preparation for the festival.

Some families even spent several nights in their tents as part of their tradition in celebrating Liberation Day, which marks the opening of the gates of Camp Susupe in 1946.

According to Sgt. Paul Ogunoro, traffic officer in charge, this year's turnout surpassed last year's crowd.

"It went very smoothly as usual... and we've seen a lot of people this year!" he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the department noted no incident during the day's celebration as reported by 20 police staff deployed in the festival area.

It was exactly 2:30pm when festival parade commenced from the National Office Supply down to the festival site across Kristo Rai Church.

Mayor Juan B. Tudela, who was selected as the 2009 grand marshal and appeared in an elegant all-white tuxedo, led the traditional parade waiving to spectators and guests on each side of Beach Road.

Following the grand marshal were the previous year's Liberation Day queen and her royal court along with Miss Marianas Universe Sorene Maratita—who all came down to join the VIPs on stage.

The 23-member U.S. Navy team added to the crowd's excitement as they cheered for the visiting group.

Equally notable in Saturday's performances were the intermission rendered

by the close to 100-member Falun Dafa—complete with their talented band and performers who played "America the Beautiful."

Special guests on stage were also seen offered special gifts by the presenting groups as a show of appreciation to their culture.

Guests also enjoyed the participation of children from the Boy Scouts of America, Saipan Iwadori Team, CNMI JROTC cadets, Hopwood Drill Team, Uncle Ben's Music Studio, Asia Pacific Junior League Champions, and Pacific Development, Inc.

Presentations from Chinese Association of Saipan and Korean Association of Saipan added to this year's festival highlights as well as the appearance of 2009 Man 'amko King and Queen and

See **LIBERATION** on Next Page

UFO

From Page 2

cas of petals of flowers in lively colors that grew and draped the surrounding sides of the float portrayed "love and harmony" that are essential virtues in achieving a "path for peace" for the areas of the world that are experiencing conflict, war, and confusion, according to UFO.

Named Liberation Day's second best float was the entry of Northern Marianas College, which went home with \$500 in prize money.

Presented by members of the college alumni association, the float showcased the "peace and prosperity of education" that one can achieve from NMC.

A replica of the traditional boat in

rough waters, meantime, depicted the challenges that may come to one's educational journey.

Adjudged third place winner was the entry of San Jose Parish, which displayed the replicas of Christians' religious icons along with its Little Miss San Jose Parish Royal Court.

The third best float received \$300 cash prize from the festival committee.

Flor Miranda, one of the competition's judges, said all entries were assessed based on originality, workmanship, animation and special effects, general presentation, and how well the float design concept adapts to the parade theme.

The two other floats that competed in the festival included the entries of the Hindu community and IT&E. The rest of the judges included Frank Tudela and Ike Borja.

CONGRESSMEN

From Page 1

The congressmen were on their way back to Washington, D.C. from stops in Asia when they refueled and spent the night on Saipan on Saturday, at the invitation of Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan.

Another congressional delegation will be visiting Saipan in the next few weeks.

"The discussion focused around the CNMI-Guam visa waiver program, and it gave us an opportunity to voice our issues to ensure Russians and Chinese are included in the program. They said they will look into our concerns," Chamber president Jim Arenovski told *Saipan Tribune*.

Arenovski and DFS Galleria Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce met for one hour with Pierce and other visiting congressmen yesterday morning.

The meeting also touched on ensuring there's "no gap" between Nov. 28 when the transition to federal immigration begins and the time when the U.S. Department of Homeland Security makes determination that Chinese and Russians will be included in the visa

waiver program.

Once the CNMI loses access to Russian and Chinese tourists, the CNMI would lose more than \$100 million in the local economy, the Fitial administration had said.

Besides Price, the other visiting congressional members were Cong. Jim Cooper (D-TN), Cong. Bob Etheridge (D-NC), Cong. Phil Gingrey (R-GA), and Cong. Vern Buchanan (D-FL).

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in an interview on Saturday afternoon after the Liberation Day parade, said he's glad that the congressmen chose to come to Saipan.

He said he knew about the brief visit from Sablan, who was also at the parade festivities.

The governor said if he would have the chance to talk with the congressmen, he would also ask them to consider including Chinese and Russian tourists from the visa waiver program, citing their big contributions to the CNMI economy.

"Homeland Security is not giving us any information as to what we could do to continue to have this visa waiver for China and Russia. They know it is crucial to our economy so if we have an opportunity to meet with them, I'm

going to ask them to please help us maintain the visa waiver for Russia and China. There are only two tests. Is Russia or China an economic benefit to the CNMI? The answer is yes. The second test is, 'Is Russia or China considered a national threat?' My response? Not to the CNMI," Fitial said.

As of yesterday afternoon, there's no word from either Sablan or the administration whether the governor did, in fact, meet with Price and the other congressmen.

Brief visit

Before refueling on Saipan, the five congressmen had been to Mongolia, Indonesia, and East Timor during the congressional break last week. They are part of the House Democracy Assistance Commission, which offers advice and guidance to emerging democratic legislatures around the world.

Sablan, in a statement, said Price also invited him to go with the team on the trip to these countries.

"But I said no, because I have so few opportunities to be here in the Commonwealth, meeting with constituents. And I never miss the Liberation Day parade. However, I invited the chair-

man and the other members to stop here on Saipan on the return trip to Washington and meet with me while their plane refueled," Sablan said.

He said this was the plan until about two weeks ago, when the flight crew on the military aircraft carrying the congressional delegation did their final calculations.

"It turned out that because of the headwinds this time of year and because of the rules regarding crew rest periods, it was necessary to spend the night on Saipan as well as refuel here. That's even better," Sablan said.

Sablan had arranged for the five visiting congressmen and their spouses to tour some of the historic sites on Saipan on Sunday morning, before their plane departs for its next stop in Hawaii.

"I've also asked Chairman Price to have breakfast with Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski and DFS executive Marian Aldan-Pierce," said Sablan.

He said Price chairs the appropriations committee that oversees the Department of Homeland Security.

"So, he is the ideal person for our local business leaders to talk to about the transition to federal control of immi-

gration, and especially the visa waiver issue. I am very pleased to have been able to arrange this important meeting. And I'm sure that Jim and Marian are the ideal people to explain the visa waiver program—and the importance of continuing to have Russian and Chinese tourists," said Sablan.

In addition to the five members of Congress and their spouses, there were eight staffers of the Congressional Research Service and the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC) with the congressional delegation.

Sablan himself participated in one of the HDAC missions. In May, he traveled to Haiti to discuss legislative procedure and the need for a strong institutionalized support staff with members of the parliament.

"Since I cannot go back to my district for the weekend as most congressmen do, I look for other opportunities to learn and to build relationships with other members of Congress. In fact, Rep. Price, who is the chairman of the House Democracy Assistance Commission, told me that his decision to stop over today in Saipan was because of my participation in the work in Haiti," Sablan said in his statement.

NMC

From Page 1

The good news was shared with the public during the Liberation Day festivities where NMC staff were among the participants.

NMC Board of Regents, led by chair Charles Cepeda, NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, and Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan walked through the festival main stage and personally notified Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos about the WASC's favorable decision.

"The Board of Regents and the NMC president would like to announce to the people of the CNMI...that our reaffirmation have been confirmed today for four more years! Thank you all for the support and we congratulate NMC!" Cepeda announced.

Fitial, elated on the information, stood up and said: "This is not only a liberation for people that come out from Camp Susupe in 1946, but also for NMC for coming out from the show cause status. We're very proud! Today NMC is back to normal!"

Fernandez disclosed that WASC president Dr. Barbara Beno called her office Saturday morning informing her about the good news.

"We're so excited and very happy! I thank God for His glory for NMC and

for all those who made this possible," Fernandez told *Saipan Tribune*.

She later said that she was grateful of the board of regents' trust and confidence in her capability to lead the institution.

It can be recalled that despite criticisms on Fernandez's leadership style, the board renewed and even extended her term for another four years last May.

Fernandez assumed the position in 2007, when NMC was on the brink of losing its accreditation with WASC.

From probation status in 2007, the college's standing was placed on a more severe sanction of show cause and was extended anew when it failed to address all the six recommended actions of WASC.

It was on April 30 when the final supplemental report for the remaining concerns was submitted to the commission and was verified thereafter by a team visit.

The president lauded the invaluable work of her management team, faculty and staff, and the students in ensuring that all accreditation reports were done.

"I am thankful for they did the hard work day and night, weekends and holidays to get the job done...and by putting their faith and trust in me!" said Fernandez, who also commended WASC officials for their favorable decision.

Among the key areas that made significant progress in the college standing

was the renovation and repairs of its dilapidated facilities, which were built through the funding assistance from the Office of Insular Affairs.

Fernandez specifically lauded the OIA, under the leadership of director Nick Pula, former Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio, and CNMI Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives Gregorio Kilili Sablan.

All members of both Houses were also recognized by the president for extending their full support to NMC.

She cited among these lawmakers Speaker Arnold Palacios, Reps. Ralph Torres, David Apatang, Justo Quitugua, and Victor Hocog.

What's next for NMC?

Now that it received full accreditation, Fernandez said NMC will continue to do the good works and the momentum it started two years ago—when it began dealing with accreditation concerns.

"We will just continue the works that we're doing...and we will continue to make NMC an excellent institution for our students and the people," she said.

Fernandez, however, admitted that instructional sites on Tinian and Rota would remain suspended at this time.

"All of those are under program review. It's part of our day-to-day work to evaluate the possibilities," she said, citing the distance education as among the consideration for two sites.

Asked on why they chose to announce the good news on the occasion of Liberation Day, Fernandez said: "This is a beautiful day to announce to the people of the CNMI as we celebrate the 4th of July...we can also celebrate the strong foundation of our higher institution in the commonwealth!"

Cepeda, in a separate interview, lauded Fernandez's hard work and contribution to the accreditation work.

"We're elated! Very, very happy! The board and the president will continue to be strong and will do the right thing and good works for NMC!" he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Cepeda said the reaffirmation is for both for NMC and the Board of Regents.

Last Thursday, Cepeda was reelected as chair of the body along with Malua Peter as vice chairwoman, while Dr. Rita Inos was voted as the board's treasurer.

A different NMC

For high school students who were worried that NMC might not get accredited, the news came like a breath of fresh air.

"It's still a good place to start! Whatever happened..." said Ton Agustino, 17, a student from Kagman High School.

Along with some friends, the student admitted that his family and relatives still prefer that they send their children

to NMC before they decide to enroll them in off-island universities.

Agustino, though undecided on his course for college, admitted that "one thing for sure...I will go to NMC first!"

For Ton Fitial, 15, the work demonstrated by the college in dealing the serious concerns on its accreditation only indicates its seriousness and commitment to provide a quality education for its college students.

The junior student at Kagman High School also admitted that NMC was where his siblings started until they become successful in their chosen careers.

He said he's expecting "a more different NMC" in the future as it strives for excellence.

NMC liberal arts student Mike Tangco, 18, admitted that the "decision" relieved the students' worries.

"Many of us were scared...because we don't really know what will happen. We're truly worried on the fact that it may close anytime! But with the decision, we're relieved now!" he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tangco said he is among the many students at the college that can attest to the "progress" of the institution—particularly in the improvement of its facilities.

He is confident that NMC could do a lot more for the benefit of its students.

Alcohol-related traffic offenses remain high in CNMI

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Alcohol-related traffic offenses remain at a high number, according to the 2009 CNMI Epidemiological Profile released recently by the Community

Guidance Center.

Official records from the Department of Public Safety showed that there is an alarming number of alcohol-related traffic offense by motorcycle or bicycle or scooter riders, which was 497 in 2007.

DPS also reported 292 citations for alcohol-related traffic offense on the same year.

Other alcohol-related traffic offenses include DUI (22), accident/reporting (14), insurance (132), vehicle theft (3) parking (2), and pedestrian (1).

DUI offenses had amazingly gone down in numbers from 440 in 2006 to only 22 in 2007.

Alcohol-related violent crime continued to decrease in the past three years, however, it remains high in number compared to the other offenses. From 235 in 2005 it went down to 214 in 2006 then to 188 in 2007.

Another alcohol-related offense with a high number of cases is disturbance, which went up from 181 in 2005 to 218 in 2006 and slightly went down at 192 in 2007.

Controlled substance offense continued to go up from 28 in 2005 to 40 in 2006 and 50 in 2007.

Data also showed that alcohol-related burglary, robbery, theft

offenses significantly decreased by almost 50 percent from 43 in 2006 and 22 in 2007.

Alcohol-related juvenile crime had increased from 45 in 2006 to 52 in 2007, while property offense went down from 66 in 2006 to 57 in 2007.

However, the DPS said that this may not be an accurate representation of the actual extent of alcohol-related offenses.

LIBERATION

From Page 4

their royal court.

Capping the festival parade was the traditional presentation of the Liberation Day Queen, Isabel Castro Muna, along with her runner-up Richelle Mungwaath, and Royal Princess Kayla Roseann Sablan.

Besides the participation of some government agencies, five floats entered this year's competition and were awarded cash prizes. These included United Filipino Organization, Northern Marianas College, San Jose Parish, Hindu Community, and IT&E.

Significant to US freedom

Festival keynote speaker Alan Moore, chief of staff of the Navy Region in the Marianas, conferred to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in behalf of the CNMI, a plaque of appreciation for showing continuous support and appreciation to the dedication of all U.S. military service members.

He described Saipan's Liberation Day as important to the nation, to the islands, and to future generations.

Moore said it was also a day that reminds people where they've been, and from which he hoped have learned the lessons needed to help them navigate towards a future of peace.

It was on June 15, 1944 when the assault of Saipan commenced and where 535 ships carrying 127,578 US military personnel converged on Saipan. Once ashore, Moore recalled, they were at the heart of the Japanese defense fortifications.

The chief of staff said that of the 71,000-plus U.S. troops that landed on Saipan, 31,000 were killed and 13,000 were wounded or missing in action by the time the battle ended on July 9.

"American soldiers and marines gave their lives for the sake of freedom and peace... and although their goodwill will not go unnoticed, I would like to take this opportunity to focus on other heroes—the people who called and continue to call Saipan a home!" Moore added that islanders know much of

heartbreak, loss, sacrificed during the worst times of their lives, and demonstrated sheer bravery to face an unknown future.

Moore said despite the end of the war, the struggles of the CNMI continued for decades after being recognized as a Trust Territory of the United Nations.

"The celebration of Saipan's Liberation Day has a significant cultural and traditional value which has been preserved, promoted, strengthened, and enhanced each year on July 4," Moore told the crowd.

Fitial, in his message, said in his view the annual Liberation Day celebration commemorates both the liberation of the islands in June of 1944 and the people's release from Camp Susupe in July 1946.

"The stories are the same: the liberation from colonial rule and the eventual establishment of a more democratic form of government with constitutionally guaranteed freedoms and individual rights. This story is worth celebrating every year," the governor said.

Fitial cited the many "veteran war heroes" who have been to

the islands—Lee Marvin, the late actor Guy Gabaldon, and Raymond "Hap" Halloran, among others.

"As we celebrate Liberation Day, let us be aware of our history and the great loss and sacrifices arising from that epic battle for liberation. The price for peace and liberty was enormous...let us never forget the past that led us to the orderly society we enjoy today. Let us never take our peace, freedoms, and opportunities for granted," he asked the people.

Mayor Juan B. Tudela, for his part, said: "As proud members of the American political family, we must renew our efforts to spreading peace for future generations to come."

Tudela, whose office oversees the Liberation Day festivities, commended this year's committee for a successful celebration last Saturday.

As he leaves office in January, he asked his successor to continue the traditional occasion for the community.

Tudela served the Saipan Mayor's Office for the past eight years.

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2009 Liberation Day Parade

PHOTOS BY HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



The 2008 Liberation Day queen and her royal court wave to the crowd at the Liberation Day parade on Saturday. Despite the heavy rain the previous days and in that morning, the weather was fine in the afternoon, in time for the biggest cultural parade which draws thousands of residents and tourists every year.

Young and old members of the Chinese Association of Saipan play traditional musical instruments as they join the parade.



The CNMI Hindu Community in their "The King Cobra" performance at the Liberation Day parade.



Sailors with the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS *Charlotte* join the Fourth of July parade. The submarine, with 150 officers and crew onboard, arrived here on Friday for rest and recreation.

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JROTC cadets show what they've got as they perform drills at the Liberation Day parade.



U.S. Navy chief of staff in the Marianas Capt. Alan Moore, left, presents a plaque of appreciation to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, at the Liberation Day program on Saturday.



Young members of the Boy Scouts of America march at the parade.

A more festive mood is in the air as members of the Saipan Awaodori Team perform traditional Japanese dances and chants with the sound of drums. The Awaodori team, sponsored by PDM Promoters Inc., now includes children from the Tanapag Youth Center, Gualo Rai Youth Learning Center, and Koblerville Youth Learning Center.



IT&E's float features the telecommunication company's "global roaming" products and services.



Northern Marianas College's Project Impact members entertain the crowd with their dance numbers, including hits from the late "King of Pop" Michael Jackson.

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The Korean Association of the CNMI in a traditional music and dance performance.

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Movement to shut down shark tours in Hawaii grows

HALEIWA, Hawaii (AP)—Three women donned scuba masks and jumped into the waters off Oahu's North Shore, floating inside a submerged cage as about a dozen sharks glided toward bloody fish scraps tossed into the water by a tour company.

Tourist Kim Duniec said the experience of coming eye-to-eye with sharks was exhilarating. "Their eyes were scary, but they were still graceful, absolutely beautiful," the Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, woman said.

Shark tours like this have become a popular visitor attraction in Hawaii, but a movement is gaining momentum to shut them down.

Some Native Hawaiians consider sharks to be ancestral gods and view feeding them for entertainment to be disrespectful of their culture. Surfers and environmentalists fear the tours will teach sharks to associate people with food—leading to an increase in attacks—while disrupting the ocean's ecological balance. Federal fisheries regulators, meanwhile, are investigating the tours on the grounds that they are illegally feeding sharks.

The anti-shark tour movement ignited when residents noticed a large metal cage mounted on a boat at a marina in front of a popular Hawaii Kai restaurant in March. They remembered Oahu's two shark tours used similar contraptions on the North Shore. The loca-

tion of the tours helped fuel the opposition—Hawaii Kai is an affluent bedroom community on the other side of Oahu.

Within weeks, some 400 residents overwhelmingly hostile to shark tours jammed a local elementary school cafeteria for a town hall meeting. State lawmakers left vowing to draft legislation to shut down the tours. State and federal regulators asked those present to report suspected violations of shark feeding rules. The shark tour on Hawaii Kai soon shut down, but the others remain.

Randy Honebrink, a shark expert with Hawaii's Aquatic Resources Division, said the state has always opposed the tours out of the concern they may prompt sharks to start linking humans with food.

But there are also broader potential environmental hazards, especially because sharks sit at the top of the food chain.

George Burgess, a University of Florida shark researcher, said shark populations are likely to increase in areas where tours feed sharks daily. An inflated shark population might consume more prey, depleting other marine life, Burgess said. Or a tour site may lure so many sharks that apex predators may decline in other areas.

Among many Native Hawaiians, the issue is primarily about honoring their culture.

Sharks are featured prominent-

ly in Hawaiian folklore, and have played a major role in the lives of Native Hawaiians for centuries.

Some Hawaiian families eat sharks. Others believe their ancestors appear as sharks, chasing fish into nets or guiding canoes safely back to shore. In these cases, sharks are considered ancestral gods, or aumakua, and people give them offerings of bananas and awa, a drink.

"The disrespect of the aumakua, that's what hurts us the most," said Leighton Tseu, a Native Hawaiian who considers sharks ancestral gods.

Other coastal communities around the world have struggled with shark tours as well.

Environmentalists have criticized South African cage-diving tours that lure great white sharks with bait. In the Bahamas last year, a shark fatally bit an Australian tourist on a tour that didn't use cages or protective gear.

Florida bans shark feeding in state waters, as does Hawaii.

Federal law—which governs waters between 3 miles to 200 miles from the coast—prohibits feeding sharks off Hawaii and Pacific island territories like American Samoa. Exceptions are made if fishermen are baiting sharks to harvest them or if the feeding is part of government-funded research.

Michael Tosatto, deputy regional administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service in Honolulu, said his

agency has launched a probe into Oahu's two tours.

"I can't necessarily give you a lot of details about ongoing investigations other than to say that yes, we are investigating these companies and how they operate, and again, hope to address the violations that they're committing," Tosatto said.

Joe Pavsek, owner of Hawaii's original shark tour, North Shore Shark Adventures, said his operation is legal.

"If you read the law, you'll understand that I'm not breaking any laws," he said in an interview. He didn't offer further explanation.

The former private investigator said he started his tour in 2001 after two decades of taking friends and family to see sharks off Haleiwa.

A rival company, Hawaii Shark Encounters, started several years later in the same area off Oahu's North Shore. The mostly rural district is popular with big wave surfers and tourists who drive up from Waikiki to watch green sea turtles lounging on the beach.

Pavsek said his tours take people to waters where crab fishermen have unintentionally been attracting sharks for 40 years by tossing unused bait overboard.

"We don't have to feed the sharks if we don't want to. We do it for the customers," Pavsek said.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 6, 1999

CIP central agency eyed

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is mulling over a proposal to set up a central government agency that will coordinate all the capital improvement projects in the Commonwealth in a bid to speed up completion of these infrastructure plans. The move comes in the wake of reported in-fighting between departments and agencies over use of millions of dollars in construction grants from the federal government and local matching from the CNMI. At present, some \$45 million worth of infrastructure projects are awaiting construction, according to Tenorio. "We want to make sure that we are monitoring those projects, not only the CIP, but also other federal grants that have been made available to us," he told reporters over the weekend.

JTPA trainees vow to take over private sector jobs

Jacob Villagomez wakes up early and heads to work at 7 o'clock in the morning every day. He works as a delivery man and warehouse keeper at Triple J Wholesale Department. "I feel like I'm a real employee. I sweat a lot, but I like being busy," says Villagomez, a recent graduate of Marianas High School (MHS) who is taking a summer job under the Job Training Partnership Act or JTPA. This is the first year for Villagomez to go on a job training in a private company. During his previous years' JTPA training, he was sent to different government agencies such as the Department of Commerce, Department of Public Works, and the Legislature, where he said he "only learned how to look at the watch and wait for lunch time and the end of office hours."

July 6, 2000

Senate grills DPW officials

The Department of Public Works will be short of eight more engineers within the next year, which could worsen problems over handling of the \$3.2 million in annual grants from the Federal Highway Administration, according to officials. DPW officials were grilled by the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee yesterday at the start of the oversight hearing into alleged mismanagement and inefficiency by the department in administering the federal aid. Senators expressed concern on the limited staff and expertise hired for the department's Technical Services Division which has the responsibility to ensure that the funding is properly spent and documented.

CPA criticized for increasing airport fees

A top official of Japan Airlines yesterday warned the CNMI government against imposing additional fees at Saipan International Airport to prevent aircraft carriers from transferring to neighboring island Guam. Yukiharu Enomoto, district manager of JAL, said the CNMI should consider implementing incentives to lure more airlines into the Northern Marianas just like Honolulu and Guam airports which both earlier waived landing fees for a certain period. Speaking before the Saipan Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting, the JAL executive criticized the recent 65 percent increase in aircraft landing fee and 38 percent hike in passenger facility charge carried out by the Commonwealth Ports Authority in March 2000 at this time when airlines are having difficulty to survive due to the slowdown in the island's tourism economy.

July 6, 2001

Low PCB level found in land crabs

The Department of Public Health has warned against the consumption of land crabs harvested from Tanapag village, after tests confirmed the presence of low-level polychlorinated biphenyl in some land crab samples. The agency released yesterday a health advisory that will take effect indefinitely, pending the completion of a more comprehensive study that will determine the impact of low-dose PCB among the land crab-consuming public. Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez made the announcement based on raw data released by the US Environmental Protection Agency, which confirmed the presence of low-level PCB on some land crabs tested in Tanapag.

Businesses post growth in 2000

The Commonwealth economy may not be in such a bad shape, after all. This, after a Department of Commerce's fourth quarter economic indicators report showed that business gross revenue grew by almost two percent in 2000. According to the report, revenue generated by all private companies in the Commonwealth increased to \$2.255 million last year from \$2.213 million in 1999. With nearly all major economic indicators down, it comes as a surprise to the business sector that business gross revenue managed to inch up by 1.8 percent last year.

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- **SAIPAN – Thu, July 16** at the Kagman Agricultural Station and Koblerville Fire Station
- **ROTA – Fri, July 17** at the Sunset Villa property
- **TINIAN – Sat, July 18** at the Dept of Public Works (fenced) area

Amnesty collections will start at 8am and end at 4pm at all sites.

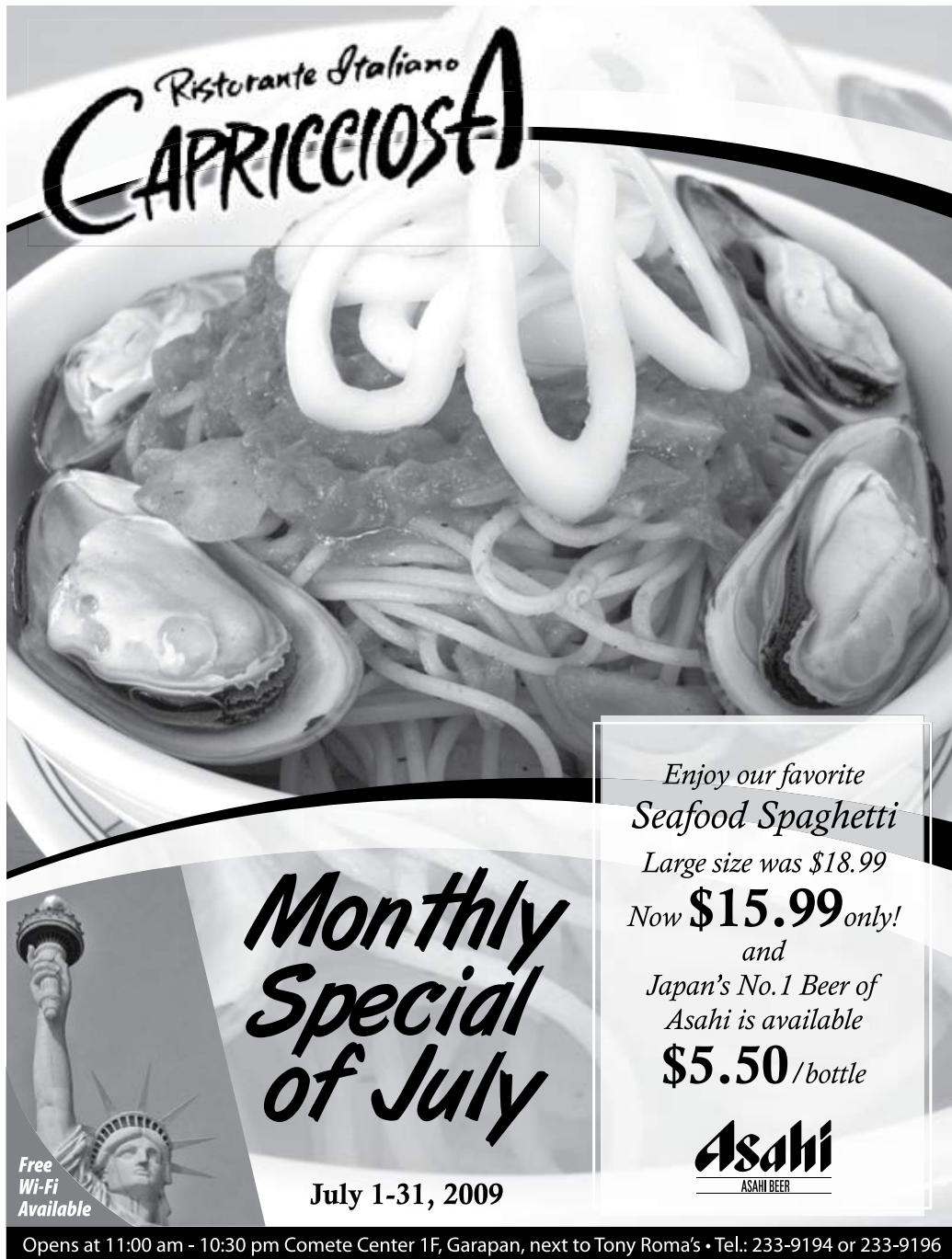


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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The Fourth of July

The men who produced the Constitution were pre-occupied with the abuse of power. They talked in terms of restraint, division of powers, limits on government. They were ever mindful of the ways in which a majority could impose its will on a minority. They were attentive to the inhibitions a people ought to put on the government's tendencies toward war and conquest. And they debated all these questions and more in elegant papers meant to lay the basis for a stable, orderly republic that would prosper and endure.

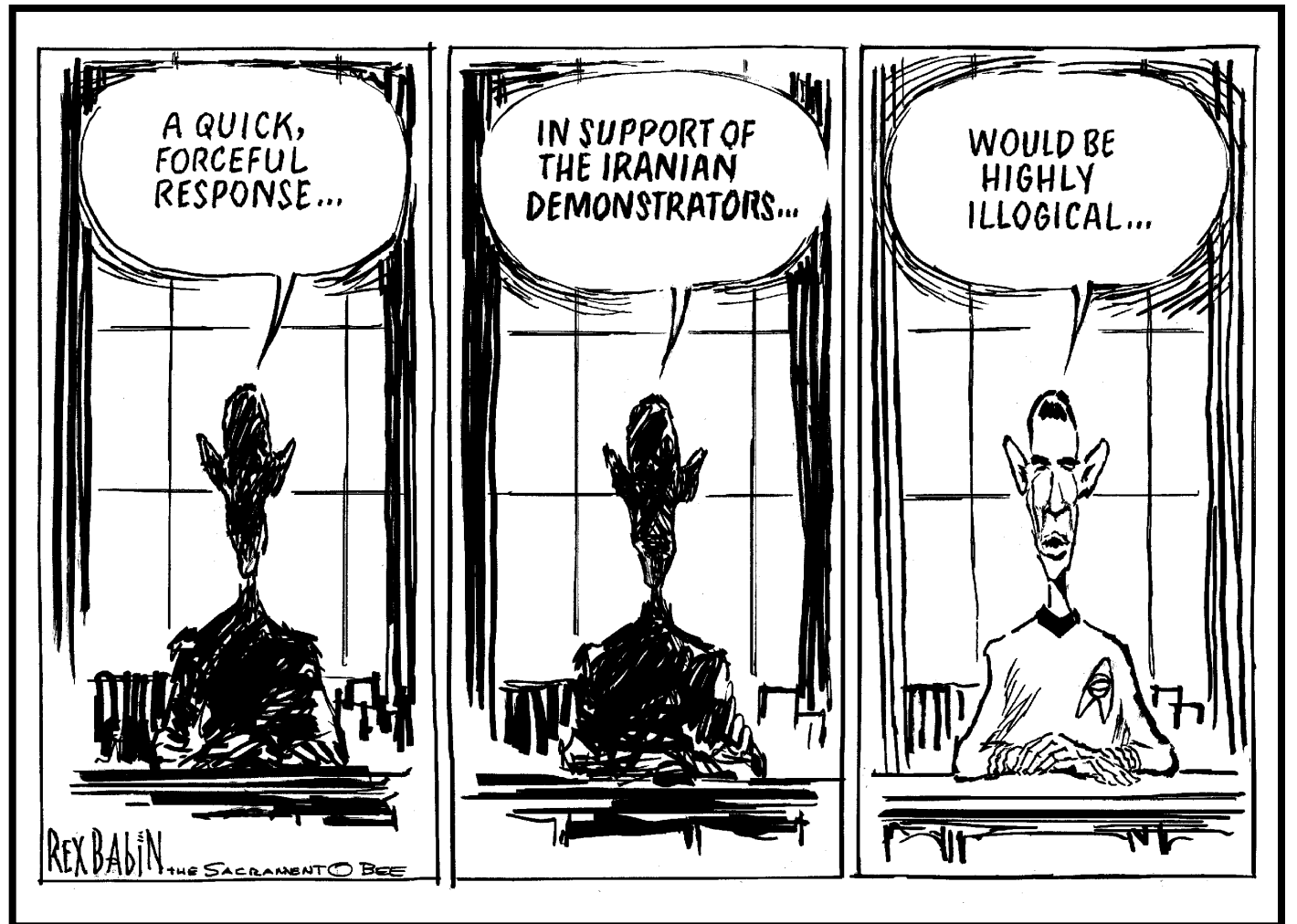
How, then, did it come about that 59 years after the Founders convened in Philadelphia, a rowdy gang of freebooting Americans was convening in faraway Sonoma, Calif., on July 4, not just to celebrate American independence but to proclaim the independence of California, which happened at the time to be part of Mexico? They fashioned their own crude flag, with a representation of a bear, disabled some Mexican cannons and generally took over the town. They acted as if they'd never read the Federalist Papers. Not too long afterward, California was part of the United States, thanks to the U.S. Army, a Navy and a president whom many accused of conducting an immoral and possibly illegal war of conquest.

Talk about original intent! In retrospect, and in the current vernacular, it might better be stated as "Who knew?" Who, in Philadelphia in 1787, could have foreseen the speed with which a newly independent people, concentrated on the Eastern Seaboard, would sweep across the continent, or the way they would do it: a sometimes glorious and sometimes appalling story that includes the acquisition of vast tracts by a president who believed in a strictly limited presidency; the forcible displacement of many thousands of peaceable native peoples; the spread of civilization to wild and unsettled regions; unspeakable greed, waste, mass religious movements, ambition and energy on an astonishing scale. And to top it all off, a long and bloody civil war over one of the most egregious abuses of power still existing in the western world (long after the Founders thought it would have disappeared): chattel slavery.

Of course much of this turmoil might have been foreseen, given the Constitution's emphasis on liberty and freedom of action. But did independence unleash the animal spirits that sometimes turned liberty into license? Might we, as many Americans argued during the Revolution, have maintained our essential freedoms and still advanced civilization in a more orderly fashion under the stately sway of a foreign empire? After all, Canada's not such a bad place, eh?

Of course the question is hardly worth raising today, and perhaps it never was. The people of the rebellious colonies along the Atlantic formed an identity of their own, mostly out of their rebellion, and they have never lost it, even through bitter conflict, incredible growth and the accretion of one generation after another that came here from elsewhere and became, in time, as American as the rebels of 1776. Which is to say that they still harbor much the same vision of opportunity Americans did some 250 years ago, and the same determination to realize it, however daunting the prospect or unpredictable the ways and means to their goal.

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Who will stand with Iranians for freedom?

WASHINGTON—As Iranians took to the streets to protest a fraudulent election last month, braving tear gas, batons and bullets, pressure mounted on President Obama to take a tougher stand against the Islamic Republic's repression of peaceful dissent. Some said the president's statements were too soft. Others argued that Obama should refrain from picking sides, lest he present a pretext for hard-liners to label the protesters American stooges.

People began to argue: What should Obama do? I'd like them to ask another question: What should ordinary Americans do?

It's important to recognize the Iranian struggle for what it is: a grass-roots, vital movement for greater liberty enriched by more than a century of struggle against foreign powers, autocratic kings and repressive theocrats. Iran's rulers would have the world believe that the protesters are a minority inspired by foreigners, but this denies a fundamental piece of Iranian history.

For more than 100 years, beginning with an extraordinarily progressive constitution written in 1906, Iranians have been struggling to achieve azadi, the Persian word for freedom. In recent weeks peaceful protesters have been detained, beaten and killed, yet Iran's constitution purports to protect freedom of assembly, of the press and of belief. Article 23: "The investigation of individuals' beliefs is forbidden, and no one may be molested or taken to task simply for holding a certain belief."

Of course, the constitution offers an array of anti-liberty loopholes, such as freedom of the press "except when it is detrimental to the fundamental principles of Islam." Article 27 notes: "Public gatherings and marches may be freely held" provided "they are not detrimental to the fundamental principles of Islam."

Iranian history is marked by a fitful struggle for freedom, individual liberties and political rights. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, no Jeffersonian democrat, approved a constitution specifying these freedoms because Iran's legacy could not simply be discarded—even if it was wrapped in a blanket of authoritarian loopholes.

The Iranians who revolted in 1979 were seeking justice and freedom. That uprising of students, clerics, merchants, intellectuals, nationalists and Islamists is often referred to as the "Islamic Revolution." It was the culmination of a long struggle to oppose the arbitrary rule of kings, though none expected the result—an Islamic Republic marked by the arbitrary rule of clerical elites.

In recent weeks, courageous Iranians have been writing, tweeting, text-messaging and telephoning the outside world with an almost universal message: Please bear witness, please stand with us. One Iranian demonstrator e-mailed me: "Where are the American actors, the writers, the university professors, the intellectuals?" I would add to this patriot's list: Where are the labor unions, teachers unions, science academies, university students and ordinary Americans from all walks of life who took to U.S. streets last year to back an unlikely presidential candidate whose motto of hope and change is mirrored by Iranians half a world away? The key difference between them?

By AFSHIN MOLAVI

Special to The Washington Post

Afshin Molavi, a former Post correspondent in Tehran, is a fellow at the New America Foundation and the author of "The Soul of Iran: A Nation's Journey to Freedom."



Iranians are facing guns and violence as they wage their struggle for a democratic future.

While Americans should be at the fore, standing up for democracy, it's not just here that this question should stir a response. Civil society around the globe has an opportunity to demonstrate the kind of justifiable fervor displayed, for example, when people in other nations opposed the war in Iraq during the Bush years. Supporters of democracy worldwide should be standing with the Iranian people as they struggle for justice and freedom. The simple message of one Iranian demonstrator on Twitter last month still brings a chill: "I have one vote. I gave it to Mousavi. I have one life. I will give it to freedom."

We may split on what Obama should say or do, fearing the effects for the protesters or our nation, but that should not stop Americans from demonstrating solidarity. Last month I attended a candlelight vigil to honor those who died fighting for freedom. The gathering was somber yet hopeful, but it was still too narrowly Iranian. We need more Americans—African Americans, Asian Americans, conservative Americans, liberal Americans, red-state Americans, blue-state Americans. If there is one issue that politically polarized America ought to be able to rally around, it is the gallant struggle of Iranians.

Before the voting, Mir Hossein Mousavi was, to many, an "anybody but Ahmadinejad" candidate. Now, he is a symbol of hope but also a man who is being driven by the crowds as much as he is driving them. "This is not about Mousavi," he said last month. "This is about you."

Barack Obama rode a similar wave, telling his supporters, "This is about you and what you can do to change America."

Iranians are pushing to change Iran and to taste freedom. It is an authentic struggle shaped by Iran's history. There is only one right side, and that is with the Iranian people.

At a reception in Washington last month, a technology executive approached me and pointed to his green tie. He said: "This is for the Iranian people." As the regime in Tehran tightens its grip, I hope to see more support from ordinary Americans, and from civil society around the globe, bearing witness, demonstrating solidarity and displaying the common humanity, decency and fairness that bind us all.

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CUC and CHC

Our Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is the government-owned electric, water, and wastewater utility manager, and given the current state of services of these critical needs, CUC has been vulnerable to all kinds of accusations. Not the least of these was the Rydlymegate of our former second-in-command up Capital Hill.

I had the chance to deal with our former leader in a judicially mandated extra-judicial proceeding, and I have every reason to believe our person in question is on the whole, a man of compassion. Even Rob Torres, in an unsolicited declaration, attested to that fact.

What has become clear, as has been true of all the allegations hurled in the last 10 years of former occupants of CUC executive offices, is the seeming systemic nature of certain practices adhered to in blurring the line between public assets and personal access. In fact, it is alleged that this is common to all public offices!

It does not seem fair that we should add another one, albeit a rather mild one, but this is not an accusation; it is more like an exercise in looking at existence from the perspective of the lightness of being. A friend could not pass up relaying his recent experience in connecting his dwelling to CUC power.

First, he went to apply for the connection. When the form was filled and ready to be filed, he asked when he was to expect the lineman for the connection. He was asked to fill up a water supply application first. "I thought the first application was sufficient for both," he replied, assuming that power and water supply services go hand in hand.

"No, you need to fill up the water service application also," he was told. "Oh," he replied, then a minor fact dawned on him. "But you do not have water service in my area," he added. He was too polite to point to the obvious. "You work here, lady," he thought to himself, "shouldn't you be familiar with your area of service coverage?"

Later, two men came to his house lot in the morning with their measuring instruments to determine the distance from where he has his electric post to the source of power. Then they left. Four hours later, four men arrived with equipment and materials to connect the power to the post where the meter was going to be, and then to his house. Then they left. Four hours later, another man came with a meter and installed the instrument.

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Gi un` kanta, sige i patgon palaon ha sañgan finaposña yan matriatkan familia. Para todo gineflieña as tataña, sumen makat ha adiñgane sa mampos fatkila na amku.

Ilegña i prohima na dispues de maritira si tataña ginen i chechu, humalom gumimen kafe dispues ha hala i gaseta ya sige manaitai. An monhayan, humanao umomag, sumena yan dumeskansa. Tatnai kumentos solu buente dididi na hapla yan i asaguaña. Mattu chña gi tai kuentos yan estotbu na amku.

Apmam lokue i patgon de ha dibina kao propiu i para u atotga tomapadiset si tataña. Lao maaña na u chinanda. Esta ha guiguife i patgon na umadiñgangu` yan si tataña un` minachom atdao. Lao ni unabes `nai masusede este na guinifiña.

Ti ha sotta i patgon dinisehaña sa mampos ansiosa kumetuñgu haye yan hafa na klasen taotao si tataña. Todo klasen atte ha chage lao tatnai sinedi nu I amku. Esta ha tatañgse si nanaña na u inayudaye nu este na dinisehaña. Ni este ti mamaichechu.

Un` dia madispone i amku ya mientras madisisidi i enteruña, ha soda i patgon un` katta gi entalu pahinan gaseta. Ha lagnos ya ha tutuhon tu-

Honor their service

By GEORGIE HANLIN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—My childhood friend of 31 years visited my home on base, in Quantico, Va., a few months after I gave birth to my first baby. As we took a leisurely stroll one evening through the lingering humidity of early September, I explained to her how different military life is from the world in which we grew up in San Francisco. We passed rows of colorful houses on the tree-lined, manicured blocks and gazed at the playgrounds around the neighborhood, ready to welcome the children of the officers who live there. American flags hung from virtually every front door. The occasional "My daddy fights for your freedom" bumper sticker adorned some vehicles. As we looped around the bend toward my house, my friend turned to me and asked, "How do you accept what your husband does for a living?"

I glanced at her, startled. "What do you mean?" I asked. "I guess I just don't know how to accept it. I don't believe in war," she responded, matter-of-factly.

My husband is an infantry captain for the U.S. Army. This week, he left on his sixth combat deployment with the 2nd Infantry Division's Stryker Brigade. He is to be gone for one year to launch Stryker vehicles into Afghanistan under President Obama's new surge. My husband

He figured that the reason he has to pay \$200 for the connection was that it took seven persons a whole day to accomplish the task. He asked, "why couldn't one person do the whole thing, and in a shorter period of time?" Good question. He mused: "My brother used to work for Public Works and I kidded him that for one man with shovel on a road repair job, there are four people to direct traffic, and five people to supervise, plus the vehicle drivers who mill around." In that comparison, he figured that CUC was efficient.

See, it is all a matter of how one tells the story. But of course, there is the question of facts. It is not just a matter of telling a story. It must sensibly conform to that which is probable. Consider a petite young thing who carried a 9-pounder to full term, and when her water broke without delivering, the Commonwealth Health Clinic physician decided to do a C-section. She has a story to tell.

Mother and son were fine. She was allowed three days in the hospital, and when the M.D. decided after measuring a low blood count, the Jiangsu *nu er* was to be sent home with an infusion of a pint of blood. Never mind that she kept saying she did not need one, even claiming that when she had one administered previously, she got sick. She was empathic, it did not serve her well. Well, her limited English might not have served her well, either, because the M.D. went ahead and administered the pint of blood into her system anyway

As soon as she got home, she was bloated like a balloon, felt woozy, could not lie down without feeling like she was drowning, had difficult breathing especially when in a horizontal position. A colleague, who would be a *comadre* were she not Chinese, went to deliver her red envelope at her hut, which would normally be filled with red *Maos*, the traditional handout of a well-wisher for a new-born child, but in this case, a U. Grant sufficed equivalent to 3.5 red *Mao* Renminbis.

Explaining the red envelope was the friend's way of getting to why she left the hut perturbed. "She is dying," she said of her friend. She was, literally drowning in her own fluids, unable to remain horizontal. The husband finally got alarmed at his wife's getting progressively weak and pale that his finger walked to 9-1-1.

The ambulance attendants started pumping the mother's chest on the way to the hospital. ER was waiting. Seven hours later, the husband was finally allowed to see his spouse. This was early Monday morn-

maitai. Ilegña i katta: "Yangin un` guaiya una kosa, pues sotta kulan un` pajararu ni gaige gi dos patman kanaimu. Sotta ya u gupu libre gi halom mapagahes guinaiyamu. Estegue bidahu giya hagu, un` sumen gatbu na flores gi pas, yan trankilu na hatdin korasonhu. Sen mas, si Tata."

Mamatmus gi sadog lagoña i prohima dispues de ha pula hafa sustansian finu tataña. Mañgge dispues kanta pot este na finaposña. Sumen triste ayu na sunidu yan i palabra ni ha tugi` pot gueku na relasioña yan si tataña.

Huñgan, guaha gi mañainata ti man-mefnu lao ni unabes ni mapega gi un` banda i guinaiyan niha nu hita. Mapañot silensiu gi halom balutan tinayuyot niha gi hilu satten na diniseha na u felis todo i karerata dispues de manaigue siha guine gi tanu. U fan madispone dispues lao siempre un` soda na man-motmut gineflie` yan guinaiya para hagu. Maseha guaha gi entre siha ti un tuño.

■ ■ ■

Pot Chaleg: Mañaki un` hobensitu latan hamun gi Payless. Humanao haya gi Gima Yuus kumonfisat. Finaisen as pale manu `nai ha polu i latan hamun. Ilegña na gaige gi papa` guaot kombentun pale. Ninae`

served with the 1st Ranger Battalion in Savannah, Ga., for 2 1/2 years before attending the Marine Corps' Expeditionary Warfare School.

We have been married for three years; he's been deployed for half that time. My husband loves his country and serves it proudly, and for that I love him. Is being an Army wife easy? Not at all. The moving, the worry, the separation, the danger, the evening news and the politics of having your spouse risk his life for wars that most of us don't understand or don't accept certainly does stir something within me.

Since we married, I have been introduced to and lived in a community of honorable people. Do I have everything in common with them? No, but I learn from them every day. Military life and married life have been an adventure; overall, they have most definitely taught me to truly value the vows I took on my wedding day. As an Army wife, I've learned the meaning of the expression "HUA" (heard, understood, acknowledged). I can now recognize an improper salute. I basically understand rank and protocol. I am beginning to know the acronyms, even though they seem to be endless. I've watched my husband parachute and fast-rope out of planes while training. I have attended military balls. I have hugged him goodbye and wondered way too many times if I would ever hug him again. I have seen soldiers break down. I have seen wives break down. I have made several friends and left several friends. I have been to an award ceremony at which a young Ranger received a Purple Heart; he lost a leg, but he stood proudly in front of the audience. I have heard

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section

ing. After x-rays and ultrasounds to make sure there are no ruptured veins and arteries, the mother stabilized on Thursday. She wondered if it wasn't time to start heading home. The newborn son was cared for at grandma's house, but the maternal instinct was lonesome.

"OK," said the M.D., "but you still have a low blood count." Came the new order for another pint, and the administration of the same. Came the unheeded patient's protestation. You guessed it; the patient started convulsing again. The blood was not only getting rejected, it elicited an allergic response.

As the husband wheeled his spouse out of the hospital the following Sunday, he asked the M.D. if he needed to sign release papers, and was told he did not need to. He inquired of the reverse: "Should I not be getting some written document of what had happened here, what was done, and what we need to do next?" "Not to worry," he was told. "You're fine and you just need to get back home."

My Mom once walked out of a Honolulu hotel and a puddle on the floor from a wet luggage made her lose her balance; her *heinnie* squarely on the ground, attendants hurried to get her up on her feet. She was too proud not to say she was OK; in fact, she was OK. Only her pride was a little shaken.

But an ambulance chaser watched the whole thing, traced my Mom at her apartment, cajoled a signature, and three months later, without mother lifting another finger, my Mom was \$3.5K richer while the lawyer downed his sundown martini holding a bank instrument of his \$6.5K share.

There were no ambulance chasers that day when the Jiangsu *nu er* went home from CHC. Maybe, there should have been.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John S. DelRosario is the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

pinetensiaña trenta na Tatan Mame yan trenta na Si Yuus Un` Ginegue Maria. Mapos si pale ya ha polu halom gi kusinan niha i latan hamun. Ti ha soda i prohimu i sinakeña sa` chinilegvan as pale.

Tres dias dispues, mattu talu kumonfisat. Ha sañge si pale na ha soda` un` bonitan palaon ni sumen paire labiosña, susuña, dagaña, adeñgña yan enteru tataotaña. Finaisen as pale mañgge ayu na palaoan. Ilegña ensegidas: "Ummmmhmm! Un` hassu pale i latan hamun?" Tabla!

horror stories about wives receiving word that their husbands were killed in action and I have thanked God that it wasn't my husband. I still get butterflies when I pick him up after each deployment. That feeling is indescribable.

So how do I accept what my husband does for a living? Quite easily. He serves his country and does so courageously, next to other respectable men and women. He represents America with the utmost dignity while overseas. The Army is lucky to have him, and so am I. While people sit back and criticize what soldiers do, my husband risks his life over and over again. Let's be honest: It's a job that most people don't want. Many don't think about it because other people do it.

Other people do it. Instead of trying to figure out how to accept or justify or understand what my husband does because you don't believe in war, I'd beg you to know that no one wants war; no one likes war. We'd all love a perfect world, but we do not live in one. Our country is at war; two of them, actually. Soldiers, my husband being one of them, have to deploy. We, as families, have to worry and wait and hope.

I believe that the next time somebody asks me how I accept what my husband does for a living, I will simply tell that person to appreciate my husband's service and to enjoy his or her freedom while my husband does what his country asks of him.

The writer, an elementary school teacher, lives in Virginia.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲80° ▼70°	▲80° ▼70°	▲80° ▼70°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲81 ▼75
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼75
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲89 ▼77
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲84 ▼75

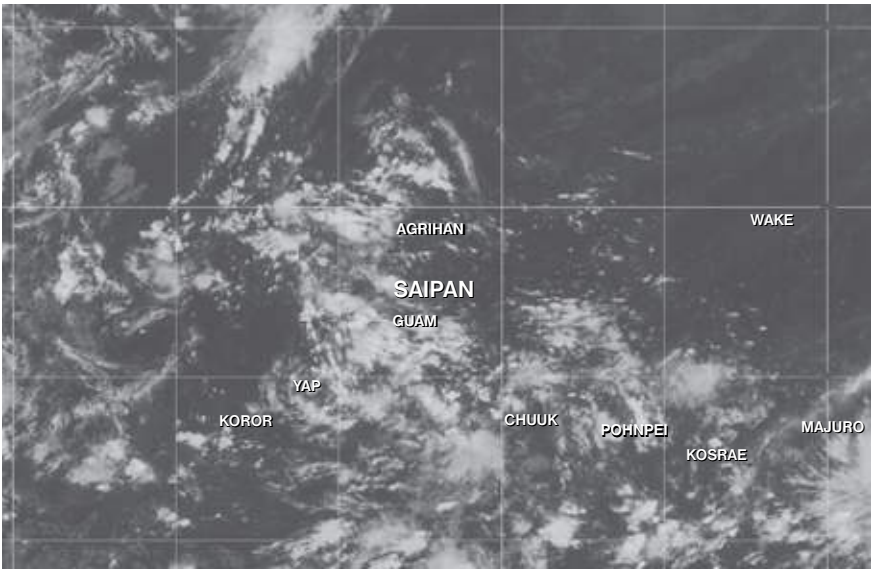
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲57 ▼50
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲93 ▼75
Hong Kong	Rain	▲88 ▼81
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲88 ▼75
London	Rain	▲72 ▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲83 ▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼78
Melbourne	Rain	▲62 ▼48
Miami	Showers	▲90 ▼78
New York	Partly Sunny	▲82 ▼67
Osaka	Showers	▲84 ▼72
Paris	Showers	▲73 ▼54
Pusan	Cloudy	▲77 ▼73
Rome	Sunny	▲86 ▼64
Salem	Cloudy	▲75 ▼51
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70 ▼55
Seoul	Showers	▲88 ▼70
Tokyo	Rain	▲81 ▼70
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼67

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:09 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet	
5:39 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
1:27 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet	
8:49 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough has moved to the northwest of the Marianas and is helping to generate pockets of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over an extensive area between 10N and 22N from 135E to 147E. Most of the activity is west of Guam and north of Yap. A small area of isolated showers and thunderstorms is also occurring within an extension of the upper trough southeast of the Marianas between 10N and 15N from 150E to 157E. A monsoon trough runs eastward from 9N130E to a weak circulation near Yap at 10N139E to another weak circulation near Chuuk at 7N152E and ends south of Pohnpei near 4N159E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to the north and south of the trough axis are occurring over a broad area between 10N137E to EQ143E, along the equator to 164E, then north to 10N164E and then back west to 10N137E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Tuesday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:03 PM	4:33 AM
Tuesday	6:50 PM	5:25 AM
Wednesday	7:33 PM	6:17 AM
Thursday	8:13 PM	7:08 AM
Friday	8:51 PM	7:57 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 3, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/893 4:30am 8:50am 7 via GUM C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN C0894/9604 10:00am 5:50pm 6 via GUM OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily							
Guam-Rota							
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily							
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily							
Saipan-Rota							
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily							
Rota-Guam							
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily							
Saipan-Tinian							
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily							
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily							
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily							
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily							
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							

Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**

FRE 102 7:05am 7:15am Daily	FRE 104 7:50am 8:00am Daily	FRE 106** 8:20am 8:30am Daily	FRE 108** 9:00am 9:10am Daily	FRE 110 10:00am 10:10am Daily	FRE 112 11:05am 11:15am Daily	FRE 114 12:00pm 12:10pm Daily	FRE 116 1:30pm 1:40pm Daily	FRE 118 2:50pm 3:00pm Daily	FRE 120** 4:20pm 4:30pm Daily	FRE 122** 5:00pm 5:10pm Daily	FRE 124 6:05pm 6:15pm Daily	FRE 126 6:20pm 6:30pm Daily
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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Rotarians install new officers



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two-time former president Tim Bellas swears in the 2009-2010 new officers and directors for Rotary Club of Saipan. From left to right are past president Ben Babauta as incoming international service director; Steve Jang (sergeant-at-arms), Wayne Gillespie (vocational service director), Angelo Villagomez (community service director), Mike Tripp (club service director), Elly Stoilova (treasurer), Glen Perez (secretary), Nel Matanguihan (vice president), and Kim Forrester (president).

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan installed last Tuesday its new set of officers and directors for the term 2009-2010 at the Saipan Palms Resort.

Two-time past president Tim Bellas administered the swearing in ceremony for the new officers led by incoming president Kim Forrester.

Forrester replaced Vicente "Ben" Babauta, who is now the director of community service.

The other newly installed of-

ficers were Nel Matanguihan (vice president), Glen Perez (secretary), Elly Stoilova (treasurer), Mike Tripp (director of club service), Angelo Villagomez (director of community service), Wayne Gillespie (director of vocational service), Dennis Yoshimoto (foundation service), and Steve Yang (sergeant-at-arms).

Michael Brazel was elected president for the next term.

Forrester's first official act was the swearing in of new member Lily Nguyen, who was sponsored by Villagomez.

Also during the occasion, Victoria Concepcion received her award as the Rotarian of the Year for putting service above self.

Former president Babauta also presented the award for Marian Aldan-Pierce as Rotary Club of Saipan Citizen of the Year.

The Rotary Club of Saipan is a community-oriented organization that has been in existence since 1968.

Its members consist of business, professional, and government leaders and employees.

Over-the-cap salaries of 4 doctors, 1 AAG certified

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial certified the over-the-cap salaries of four doctors at the Commonwealth Health Center and one assistant attorney general, who will each receive over \$50,000 a year.

The Salary Amendment Act of 1992 sets the salary ceiling for government employees at \$50,000. However, the law

gives the governor the authority to waive the ceiling, and submit a certification to the Legislature.

The governor's latest over-the-cap salary certifications were issued between June 15 and June 24, and copies of these were distributed among members of the House and Senate.

Among those receiving salaries in excess of \$50,000 are Dr. Michael Hart, an anesthesiologist;

Dr. Michael Joseph Deary, an obstetrician/gynecologist; Dr. Edward Cornette, an Emergency Room physician; and Dr. Will Gutowski, a psychiatrist.

Also certified to receive an over-the-cap salary is Assistant Attorney General Meaghan Hasselshearer.

Copies of the over-the-cap salary certification letters were also sent to the Civil Service Commission.

NMI gets \$2.9M ARRA funds for Laolao Bay project

The CNMI will receive \$2.9 million from President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the Laolao Bay Coastal Restoration project.

The money was part of the \$167 million that was provided to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for marine and coastal habitat restoration.

This was announced last week by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke as he identified 50 habitat restoration projects including three areas in three Pacific Islands.

NOAA will directly invest ARRA funds to restore Saipan's coral reefs by removing and addressing sources of upland sediment, which will be in close coordination with the CNMI government.

The project scope will include

restoring 15 acres of upland habitat, road upgrades, drainage improvements, and elimination of unsustainable beach activities.

A similar project funding is provided to the Maunaloa Bay Reef Restoration in Hawaii amounting to \$3.4 million aimed at restoring 23 acres of coral reefs through manual removal of invasive algae.

The other Pacific Island project site is in Pelekane Bay Watershed Restoration worth \$2.7 million.

It looks to restore more than 1,463 acres of coastal and marine habitat by reducing sediment and runoff impacts to coral reefs through erosion control and replanting native upland vegetation.

The 50 projects will include restoring damaged wetlands, shellfish beds, coral reefs and re-open fish passages that boost the

health and resiliency of coastal and Great Lakes communities.

According to a press release Locke said these projects will put Americans to work while restoring our coasts and combating climate change.

"They reflect our investment in sound science and commitment to help strengthen local economies."

Accordingly, coastal areas generate more than 28 million jobs in the United States. Commercial and recreational fishing employs 1.5 million people and contributes \$111 billion to the nation's economy.

The complete list of the 50 projects spread across the US mainland and territories are found in the NOAA website: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090630_restoration.html. (Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Afetha Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



NOTICE OF CLOSURE OR DISMISSAL

2008 LABOR CASES, second group
June 29, 2009, first notice July 6, 2009, second notice

COMPLAINANTS IN THE FOLLOWING LABOR CASES:

Each of the labor cases listed below has been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office. In each case, this is a final action by the Administrative Hearing Office. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been adjudicated or dismissed. Any complainant who has not been served personally or by mail with the hearing officer's order adjudicating or dismissing the case is now, as of the second date of publication of this notice, served with the order. A complainant served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the hearing officer's order from the Administrative Hearing Office. A complainant whose case has been adjudicated or dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has until July 20, 2009 to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior service personally or otherwise on a complainant, and the time within which to appeal runs from the date of that service.

COMPLAINANTS WHOSE ADMINISTRATIVE AWARDS HAVE NOT BEEN PAID:

Any complainant who was awarded money damages in a case listed below and has not been paid should come to the Complaint Intake Section, Department of Labor, and fill out a declaration affirming that payment has not been made. Please bring a copy of the administrative order in your case and your entry permit card. A complainant who has not been paid has until July 30, 2009 to report to the Complaint Intake Section.

Case No.	Complainant	Employer
08-164	Abiendo, Alicia Q.	Pelisamen, Maria Estrella
08-191	Ahon, Justina B.	Philpan International Corp.
08-199	Albarico, Helen S.	YCO Corp. dba Jollibee
08-162	Alvaro, Edilberto C.	An Da Intl Corp. dba Shun-Fa Auto Shop
08-240	Barro, Adela D.	Alvarez, Bruno G. & Lucky R Corporation
08-242	Bautista, Nida L.	Alvarez, Bruno G. & Lucky R Corporation
08-067	Berganio, Elizabeth Abella	Babauta, Susana C. dba S&J Document Handling
08-051	Besana, Mario O.	Arceo, Salvador B.
08-064	Biascan, Emelda L.	Pelisamen, Ma. Estrella DLC.
08-176	Calage, Crisita Solis	Crystal Seas CNMI Inc.
08-117	Cambroner, Honorio Glor	RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction
08-158	Che, Gang Hui	Poong In Spn Inc.
08-059	Chen, Aiping	Sam Kwang Saipan
08-135	Cruz, John John Hawayan	Sablan, Ramon M.
08-091	Cui, Changxing	Pentastar Corporation
08-189(T)	Cui, Jingzhu	Xuan Corporation dba Xuan Guang Zhe
08-170	Dacucos, Imelda Dela Rosa	Wall Street Empire Inc.
08-218	Dalo, Nestor B.	Triple K Corp. dba Global Security Agency
08-029	De Lima, Nestor Masajo	Han Nam Corp. dba Han Nam Market
08-050	Dela Cruz, Rolando Garcia	Marianas Fast Food Inc.; Valiente, Imelda; Panganiban, Reyole; Mendiola, Connie
08-238	Dupra, Loretta B.	Alvarez, Bruno G. & Lucky R Corporation
08-152	Eugenio, Noemi Dionisio	Sablan, Catherine I.
08-204	Gaboya, Merlinda L.	Eastern Hope Corp. dba Keeraku Rest.
08-219	Gallega, Rogelio E.	Triple K Corp. dba Global Security Agency
08-217	Guo, Li Ying	Feng Hua Ent. Inc. dba Feng Hua Mart, Goldent Harvest Mar; S&D Corp. dba Monte Carlo
08-130	Han Nam Corp. dba Han Nam Market	Delima, Nestor M.
08-080	Hidal, Olivia C.	Soi-In Corportation
08-193	Huang, Fengxia	Chen Gang Corp.
08-214	Huang, Shizhong	Feng Hua Ent. Inc. dba Feng Hua Mart, Goldent Harvest Mar; S&D Corp. dba Monte Carlo
08-110	Jin, Xuanzhe	K.S. Chang Corporation dba I-Mart
08-234	Kim, Yoon Jung	St. Marks Inc. dba Sunset Apartment
08-215	Li, Danyun	Feng Hua Ent. Inc. dba Feng Hua Mart, Goldent Harvest Mar; S&D Corp. dba Monte Carlo
08-211	Li, Gui Xiang	Saipan SJ Corp dba Island Massage
08-090	Li, Min	Yan Yi Corporation
08-033	Li, Qi Rong	Feng Hua Ent. Inc. dba Feng Hua (Harvest) Mart and Li, Jian De; Wu, Yan
08-120	Li, Yanxia	Poong In Saipan Inc.
08-236	Lim, Elizabeth P.	Alvarez, Bruno G. & Lucky R Corporation
08-239	Lim, Romeo Y.	Alvarez, Bruno G. & Lucky R Corporation
08-229	Lin, Anshu	Huang Zheng Corp. Ltd.
08-185	Lin, Meidan	L & K International Inc. dba Kai Hua Rest.
08-131	Lin, Qingyun	L & K International Inc. dba Kai Hua Rest.
08-188	Ling, Yan Xing	L & K International Inc. dba Kai Hua Rest.
08-039	Liu, Dongfan	Smart Guy Co. Ltd.
08-190	Liu, Yuehan	United International Corp.
08-015	Lorenzo, Renante B.	Cabrera, Francisco C.
08-171	Manalang, Nelia Pascua	Wall Street Empire Inc.
08-027	Marianas Fast Food Inc.	Dela Cruz, Rolando (121116) & Supsupin, Vivienne
08-007	Metran, Enrico Tapawan	Pacific Island Creations Inc.
08-023	Misra, Rajani	Singeo Beches dba USP Mart
08-252	Molina, Leon A.	Kevin's Corporation
08-187	Nabuab, Elizer N.	Pangelinan, Mariano K. dba Island Janitorial Services
08-184	Orenca, Benedict Solano	Seven Twelve 7.12, Ent. Inc.
08-237	Orilly, Marilyn P.	Alvarez, Bruno G. & Lucky R Corporation
08-016	Palaganas, Edwin C.	Cabrera, Francisco C.
08-241	Paras, Pat Q.	Alvarez, Bruno G. & Lucky R Corporation
08-224	Park Soon Nam	Pop Street, Inc.
08-172	Rahman, Habibur	Bashar, Mohamed Abul
08-106	Ruan, Chaoying	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
08-035	Ruiz, Jenelyn Bautista	Greenstone Intl Inc.
08-052	Sayson, Hedelita R.	Kendall, Brian R.
08-202	Sexon, Rogelio O.	G4S Security Services
08-002	Soleman	Zhu, Qing Zhen
08-212	Su, Yumin	Feng Hua Ent. Inc. dba Feng Hua Mart, Goldent Harvest Mar; S&D Corp. dba Monte Carlo
08-049	Supsupin, Vivienne D.	Marianas Fast Food Inc.; Valiente, Imelda; Panganiban, Reyole; Mendiola, Connie
08-230	Tengson, Josephine R.	Loste, Eleanor A.
08-198	Vasquez, Jessie Zambra	Triple K Corp. dba Global Security Agency
08-107	Wang, Liangshi	Pacific S P Island Corp.
08-213	Wu, Yipin	Feng Hua Ent. Inc. dba Feng Hua Mart, Goldent Harvest Mar; S&D Corp. dba Monte Carlo
08-141	Wu, Zhi Cheng	JCJ Co. Ltd dba Jinjoo Restaurant
08-216	Xiao, Xueming	Feng Hua Ent. Inc. dba Feng Hua Mart, Goldent Harvest Mar; S&D Corp. dba Monte Carlo
08-132	Yunting, Maganiel S.	Sonic International Inc.
08-159	Zhang, Hui	Poong In Spn Inc.
08-085	Zhou, Anmin	Kyung Seung Spn. Inc.
08-038	Zhu, Haijuan	Borja, Hua Bie
08-024	Zou, Wei	Mei Li Saipan

Business

GM Europe: Talks on selling Opel near completion

BERLIN (AP)—Negotiations for the sale of General Motors Corp.'s unit Adam Opel GmbH to Canadian autoparts maker Magna are progressing well and should soon be complete, the head of GM Europe said in remarks released Saturday.

Carl-Peter Forster was quoted as telling the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung that he hoped the sale of Opel to Magna International Inc. could be complete by mid-July.

"It's only about the details," he was quoted as tell-

ing the FAZ, according to a copy of remarks released before their publication in the newspaper Sunday.

"After the meeting between the heads of GM and Magna, I am extremely confident a comprehensive agreement can be

reached," Forster said.

Last week Magna chief executive Siegfried Wolf said his company "wants to come to an agreement by July 15."

Forster praised Wolf as a tough negotiator.

"He's putting the pressure on—and that is good," Forster was quoted as saying.

Magna and Russian Sberbank signed a nonbinding agreement in May that envisages Sberbank taking a 35 percent stake and

Magna a 20 percent stake in the GM subsidiary.

The deal was touted in Russia as a major coup for the country's troubled auto industry—based on signals that Magna would produce Opel cars in Russia.

Small town America pins hopes on West trade route

LIMON, Colo. (AP)—For Joe Kiely, the drone of thousands of trucks passing his Colorado plains town signals economic prosperity.

The caravans carrying billions of dollars worth of goods move along a 2,300-mile, mostly rural, two-lane trade route from Mexico to Canada, and frequently stop in on towns like Limon (LY-min)

and bring business to their hotels, truck stops, gas stations and fast food restaurants.

If the Ports to Plains Corridor is going to be able to handle the increasing flow of goods, Kiely said, the highways need to be expanded. To realize the corridor's potential, Kiely and municipal officials up and down

the highway want federal backing for a 20-year plan to expand the road to four lanes.

Some \$900 million has been spent since 1997, and this year more than \$80 million in stimulus funds went to road construction and improvements on parts of the highway in Colorado, Texas and New Mexico.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

HK lawmakers discuss Disney expansion plan

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong lawmakers said Saturday they would be unwilling to approve a plan to expand the city's Disneyland unless the government and Walt Disney Co. tell them how the theme park has performed since it opened in 2005. Walt Disney and Hong Kong last week agreed to expand their joint venture, Hong Kong Disneyland, at a cost of 3.5 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$450 million), in hopes of boosting the park's fortunes. Hong Kong lawmakers must approve the expansion before construction can begin. The Burbank, California-based entertainment giant will put up all the new capital to cover the construction and operation costs during the building phases. Hong Kong will not inject any new money but will convert a large portion of the loan it provid-

ed to Disney for the construction of the original park, to buy more shares in the venture.

Omg! Positive tone boosts Yahoo celeb site to top

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Think of the most popular brands in celebrity news, and you'll probably come up with a small list that includes Entertainment Tonight, US Weekly and People. Consider the most successful celebrity news destinations online, and something else jumps to the top. For more than a year, one site has attracted more eyeballs than any other in the realm of celebrity gossip: Yahoo Inc.'s omg. With a dedicated staff of just five people, and more than a dozen shared with other Yahoo sites, the company has settled on a formula that Yahoo Media Group head Jimmy Pitaro calls "highly profitable," though Yahoo won't reveal details.

BT offers staff time off in exchange for pay cut

LONDON (AP)—Telecoms company BT Group PLC is offering staff a year off work in return for a 75 percent cut in that year's pay. BT is one of Britain's biggest companies, with more than 100,000 employees. It is trying to cut costs after posting a net loss of almost 1 billion pounds (\$1.6 billion) for the first three months of 2009. The company said Saturday that staff who take up the offer will get the remaining quarter of their salary as an upfront payment. Staff also are being offered incentives to work part-time. BT already has said it expects to cut 15,000 jobs in the next year. Many companies are seeking to trim payroll costs. British Airways asked employees to take unpaid leave or work for a month without pay. It says 7,000 of its 40,000 staff agreed.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS WATER TASK FORCE RFP09-GOV-110

A&E of Tinian 0.5 Million Gallon Reservoir

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from licensed architectural and engineering (A&E) firms for the Design of Tinian 0.5 Million Gallon Reservoir, Carolinas, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **June 22, 2009**.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **July 7, 2009**, to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from OIA.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to local proposers per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118. If preference is claimed, it must be claimed at the time of proposal submission.

Four (4) copies plus one original of the sealed Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 p.m., (CNMI local time), on July 22, 2009**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"A&E of Tinian 0.5 Million Gallon Reservoir Project, RFP09- GOV-110"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on July 22, 2009**. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on July 22, 2009**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or email procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 22, 2009** and must be received no later than **July 31, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

Benigno R. Fitial
Governor, CNMI

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW09-RFP-020

CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE CNMI RIGHTS-OF-WAY MANUAL FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. CM-NH-0075 (002)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals to provide **Consultant Services for the Preparation of the CNMI Rights-of-Way Manual, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§ 70-30.3-310** of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of work will be available on or after June 23, 2009 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on July 9, 2009. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or faxed to (670)234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time July 16, 2009.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

Qualifications of the company or individual – **30%**
Past Experience on similar projects – **40%**
Current workload and ability to perform the scope of work – **30%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW09-RFP-020"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 am local time July 21, 2009. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, July 21, 2009 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 21, 2009 and must be received no later July 30, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be most reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purposes of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. A fee shall be negotiated with the highest qualified consulting firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the Government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then another firm may be selected in the order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed. Award will be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined to be most advantageous to the CNMI Government taking into consideration price and the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The successful proposer will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All response to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the Government.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

Nation

Palin links resignation to 'higher calling'

NYC fireworks highlight US Independence Day events

NEW YORK (AP)—Fireworks burst into the night sky above New York with a kaleidoscope of colors shooting 1,000 feet into the air on an Independence Day that began with the Statue of Liberty's crown opening to the public for the first time since Sept. 11, 2001.

It was the nation's biggest fireworks display, with more than 22 tons of pyrotechnics exploding Saturday over a mile-and-a-half of the Hudson River, a new vantage point for New York's festivities. Millions of spectators watched from both sides of the river.

■ ■ ■

OCRACOKE, N.C. (AP)—A truckload of fireworks exploded Saturday morning on a dock at a remote North Carolina island, killing two workers and critically injuring three others preparing for an Independence Day celebration, authorities said.

The explosion shook homes and businesses and was heard across a village on the southern end of Ocracoke Island, which is the only inhabited part of the 15-mile spit of land, accessible only by boat.

Dock master Robert Raborn noticed the workers

unloading the truck from the Anchorage Marina about 200 yards away and described the explosion as one of the loudest things he has ever heard.

■ ■ ■

Among them were Gamalat Bayoumy and his wife, Mosad Mohamad—food cart vendors who work near the river and ended up watching the fireworks sitting on a crate and a broken chair in the doorway of a car wash. In their 50s with family in Egypt whom they help, the couple lost an estimated \$1,000 in business when police asked them to shut down because of swelling crowds.

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—Outgoing Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin on Saturday laid the groundwork to take on a larger, national role after leaving state government, citing a "higher calling" with the aim of uniting the country along conservative lines.

A day after surprising even her closest friends by announcing she would step down as Alaska governor more than a year before her



Palin

term was up, the controversial hockey mom was still keeping details of her future plans under wrap. But in a state-

ment posted on Palin's Facebook account, she suggested that she had bigger plans and a national agenda she planned to push after she resigns at the end of the month.

"I am now looking ahead and how we can advance this country together with our values of less government intervention, greater energy independence, stronger national security, and much-needed fiscal restraint," she said.

Palin also cast herself as a victim and blasted the media,

calling the response to her announcement "predictable" and out of touch.

"How sad that Washington and the media will never understand; it's about country," the statement said. "And though it's honorable for countless others to leave their positions for a higher calling and without finishing a term, of course we know by now, for some reason a different standard applies for the decisions I make."

Palin's personal spokeswoman, Meghan Stapleton, confirmed to The Associated Press that the Facebook posting was written by the governor.

Lady Liberty's crown reopens on July Fourth

NEW YORK (AP)—The first visitors allowed into the Statue of Liberty's crown in nearly eight years made the arduous climb Saturday on an Independence Day journey laden with symbolism of freedom, national pride—and for one couple, romance.

Aaron Weisinger, 26, got down on one knee on the crown's small floor, pulled out

a diamond ring and proposed to his girlfriend, Erica Breder. Stunned, Breder squeezed her eyes shut as tears rolled down her cheeks, and whispered an immediate yes.

"To propose in the crown was perfect," 25-year-old Breder said later.

Cheering the Walnut Creek, Calif., couple, fellow visitors also felt the gravity of the occasion.

"I feel the Statue of Liberty represents global unity, a sign that our world must unify," said Barbara McLean, 57, of Atlanta. After ascending the total of 354 steps to the statue's crown, she sang "America the Beautiful"—her deep voice resonating off the low, rounded ceiling of the crown's interior—before fellow visitors broke into a hefty applause.



INVITATION FOR BIDS WATER TASK FORCE IFB09-GOV-095



Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the Rapogao and Sablan Quarry Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his CNMI Business License in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Approximately 8,900 linear feet of distribution and transmission lines and appurtenances.
- One new 0.40 MG glass fused to steel water storage tank, with site work including access road and retaining wall
- New Chlorination System building
- Reconnection of numerous existing water service connections
- Two new pressure reducing stations
- Additive Bids for Maui IV booster station rehabilitation and the Flame Tree water line replacement

A non-refundable payment of \$300 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **June 8, 2009** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **June 23, 2009**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be scheduled at the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **June 22, 2009**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations as out in the NMI Administrative Code Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is available to local bidders per Public Law 5-95 and 5-118.

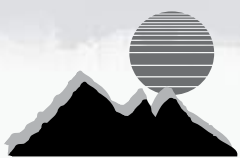
Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB09-GOV-095**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **July 8, 2009**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time **July 8, 2009**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 8, 2009**, and must be received no later than **July 17, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **July 20, 2009**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **July 9, 2009**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply



Victim's Advocate services are available through Karidat

What is Family Violence?

It's the mistreatment of one family member by another.

Family violence includes:

Physical abuse

- Slapping, Hitting, Burning, etc.

Sexual abuse

- Rape, Incest

Emotional abuse

- Threats, Insults, Harassment

Neglect

- Poor Physical or Emotional Care

Family violence is a crime. It is a widespread problem in our society.

Some family members suffer from domestic violence and it hurts everyone involved. If this is happening in your family, you can get help by visiting Karidat Social Service or call our telephone #234-5248/234-6981 Monday through Friday from 8:00 am through 5:00 pm and after working hours call the Hotline at 234-5100. You can also visit the Karidat Social Services Office in Chalan Kanoa.

This project was supported by Grant Number 2007-VA-GX-0030 and 2008-VA-GX-0046 awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) by the Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program, Office of the Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and sub-granted by the CJPA Supervisory Council.

Asia

Missiles show NKorea skills improving: officials

South Koreans walk by a North Korean mock Scud-B missile, left, and other South Korean mock missiles at the Korea War Memorial Museum in Seoul, South Korea, Saturday, July 4, 2009.

AP



SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's weekend missile launches show the communist country is improving its capability and accuracy and are a cause for concern, officials said Sunday.

North Korea launched seven ballistic missiles into waters off its east coast Saturday in a show of military firepower that defied U.N. resolutions and drew international condemnation and concern. It also fired four short-range missiles Thursday believed to be cruise missiles.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency—citing a South Korean government source it did not identify—reported that five of the seven ballistic missiles landed in the same area, indicating their accuracy has improved.

Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith said North Korea's capabilities were getting better.

"If you look at their most recent efforts, the most worrying thing is not their current capacity in terms of distance or scope but how they

have improved," he told the Nine Network on Sunday.

"We have seen improvements regrettably in their technology and their approach," he said, emphasizing the latest missile tests were clearly a provocative act aimed at the U.S.

Saturday's launches on U.S. Independence Day appeared to be a slap at Washington as it moves to enforce U.N. as well as its own sanctions against the isolated regime for its May 25 nuclear test.

Marines march in grueling Afghan sun for July 4

NAWA, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban militants were nowhere in sight as the columns of U.S. Marines walked a third straight day across southern Afghanistan. But the desert heat proved an enemy in its own right, with several troops falling victim Saturday to temperatures topping 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Marines carry 50-100 pounds (23-45 kilograms) on their backs. But because they are marching through farmland on foot, they can't carry nearly as much water as their

troops demands.

Few even realized the date was July 4, but once word of the holiday spread through the company, several said they knew relatives would be holding lakeside celebrations—a world away from the strenuous task Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment was taking on.

"Happy 4th of July, dawg. Happy America," said Lance Corp. Vince Morales, 21, of Baytown, Texas said to one of his Marine buddies while resting

under a tree during a break.

Some Marines ate watermelon from a farmer's field as the evening sun set, but there were few other signs of a holiday celebration here.

Some 4,000 Marines are moving through southern Helmand to take back Taliban-held territory and pinch the insurgents' supply lines. Bravo Company has seen a lot of walking but up to now little fighting, though other Marines in the operation have had extended battles.

ASIAN BRIEFS

UN chief leaves Myanmar 'disappointed' with junta

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon ended a mission to Myanmar on Saturday saying he was "deeply disappointed" that the isolated nation's top military ruler denied him a visit to jailed opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. In two days of rare talks with Senior Gen. Than Shwe, the U.N. chief urged the reclusive 76-year-old autocrat to release Suu Kyi and other political prisoners and embark on democratic reforms ahead of elections scheduled for next year. But their meetings Friday and Saturday in Naypyitaw, the junta's remote administrative capital, left Ban saying that his diplomatic gambit had produced no immediate results and amounted to "a setback to the international community's

efforts to provide a helping hand to Myanmar."

Pakistani airstrikes kill at least 12 militants

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani warplanes and helicopter gunships pounded Taliban positions in the country's volatile northwest on Saturday, killing at least 12 suspected insurgents, security officials said, as the government kept up pressure on Islamist militants along the Afghan border. Elsewhere in the northwest, clashes between tribesmen and Taliban fighters left 16 people dead in the latest violence between pro-government tribal militias and insurgents. The government airstrikes hit three suspected militant positions in the Orakzai region, part of the rugged, lawless tribal belt along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan,

stan, two security officials said.

Bomb blast near south Philippine cathedral kills 3

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Suspected Muslim guerrillas detonated a bomb near a Roman Catholic cathedral in the southern Philippines on Sunday, killing at least three people and wounding more than two dozen others. The bomb exploded outside the Immaculate Conception cathedral in Cotabato city as churchgoers walked out after attending Mass. Two passers-by were killed instantly in the attack and a third died on the way to a hospital, said regional military commander Maj. Gen. Alfredo Cayton. The improvised explosive was hidden near a row of food stalls selling roasted pig, Cayton said.

Nation

Colleges focus on veterans as new GI Bill ups numbers

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP)—With a fattened GI Bill covering full tuition and more, the number of veterans attending college this fall is expected to jump 30 percent from last year to nearly half a million. That's left many universities looking for ways to ease the transition from combat to the classroom.

Vets already in school have run into problems including campus bureaucracy, crowds that can trigger alarm instincts honed by war and fellow students who don't understand their battlefield experiences.

In response, colleges across the country are offering veterans-only classes, adding counselors and streamlining the application and financial aid process.

Under the new GI Bill expanded by Congress last year, the number of military veterans either starting or continuing their studies this fall is expected to top 460,000, up from 354,000 last autumn, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Many of them will encounter a classroom culture shock that can leave them agitated.

Ask Colin Closs, a former Fort Campbell soldier studying at Cleveland State University in Ohio, what bothers him most about how veterans are treated on campus and he lists strange and sometimes rude questions people have asked.

"Was it hot?"

"Were you always in a tent?"

"Did you ever kill anybody?"

Closs benefited this past school year from a program at Cleveland State started in 2007 by chemistry professor John Schupp to form some freshman-level classes with all veterans. Schupp's idea is to keep the military men and women together as a unit so they can support and motivate each other.

The University of Arizona adopted his program last year and schools in at least a dozen states are working on programs modeled on Cleveland State.

Closs said after leaving the military, he had trouble interacting with people who don't understand his wartime experiences. But when he takes classes with other veterans, they can talk about problems they may have, whether its educational or personal.

"It's like the VFW hall without the alcohol," Closs said.

The University of West Florida in Pensacola, not far from Eglin Air Force Base, is adding counselors to help service members with post traumatic stress disorder or other emotional problems, but administrators recognize that veterans don't want to be categorized as disabled.

"They feel like they are ostracized, or there's a stigma attached, so how we handle that is getting a lot of scrutiny," said Marc Churchwell, the school's military education program coordinator.

Churchwell, who is retired from the Navy, said his own

experience with the previous GI Bill made him want to make the process easier for the next generation of men and women in the military.

"It was very frustrating for me to the point I was ready to quit," Churchwell said. "My goal is for those people to come to me so they don't have to deal with it."

The University of California Los Angeles has short orientation sessions for veterans and is creating an Iraq and Afghanistan veterans readjustment group in the fall.

Matthew Nichols, a psychologist who just joined UCLA's counseling and psychological services after working for the VA, said he's hopeful that students will feel more comfortable asking for help on a college campus versus walking into a veterans hospital.

"These are everyday concerns," he said. "It's much less about 'there's something wrong with me,' and more about 'how can I study a little better?'" he said.

Universities that have traditionally served military students are also finding that their new and returning students need help navigating the bureaucracy of the enrollment process.

At Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn., just outside of Fort Campbell, Ky., the school has been holding community meetings about the new GI Bill and helping administrators from other colleges who have questions.

ACROSS THE NATION

Coroner: Teen 5th killed by apparent serial killer

GAFFNEY, S.C. (AP)—A teenage girl shot while helping her father in their family's small furniture and appliance store died Saturday, becoming the fifth victim of a suspected serial killer terrorizing a small South Carolina community, authorities said. Abby Tyler, 15, died about 11:15 a.m. at a Spartanburg hospital after fighting for her life for two days, Cherokee County Coroner Dennis Fowler said. Tyler was wounded and her father was killed Thursday as they worked to close the Tyler Home Center near downtown Gaffney.

Soldier who fought in pink boxers home for the 4th

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—The soldier who was photographed fighting the Taliban in his pink boxer shorts said Saturday he was glad to be back home in Texas after his yearlong deployment to Afghanistan—

especially for the Fourth of July. Specialist Zachary Boyd said he initially thought he'd get in trouble after an Associated Press photo first transmitted in May showed him with other soldiers behind sandbags wearing his "I love NY" boxers—plus flip-flops, a helmet and a bulletproof vest. The Fort Worth soldier jumped up from a nap when his unit came under fire and didn't want to waste time putting on his uniform.

Megachurch pastor Rick Warren addresses US Muslims

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defying some of his fellow conservative Christian critics, one of the most prominent religious leaders in the country told several thousand American Muslims on Saturday that "the two largest faiths on the planet" must work together to combat stereotypes and solve global problems. "Some problems are so big you have to team tackle them," evangelical megachurch pastor

Rick Warren addressed the annual convention of the Islamic Society of North America. Warren said Muslims and Christians should be partners in working to end what he calls "the five global giants" of war, poverty, corruption, disease and illiteracy.

1 dead, several hurt in Fla. lightning strike

LAKELAND, Fla. (AP)—A lightning strike at a Fourth of July gathering in central Florida killed one person and 18 others were taken to hospitals, officials said Saturday. About 100 people from a church group were outside playing soccer and volleyball in Lakeland, about 30 miles east of Tampa, when a lightning bolt or series of strikes hit nearby, seemingly out of nowhere, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said. Benjamin Gonzalez, 30, who was playing soccer, was hit and collapsed. He was taken to a nearby hospital and pronounced dead. Eighteen others were hospitalized and nine more treated at the scene.

World

Biden spends July 4 with son, other troops in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Vice President Joe Biden spent the Fourth of July with his son and other American troops in Iraq on Saturday, while the Iraqi government spokesman publicly rejected the American's offer to help with national reconciliation, saying it's an internal affair.

Biden took a break from politics and presided over a naturalization ceremony for 237 U.S. troops from 59 countries in a marble rotunda at one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces at what is now Camp Victory, the U.S. military headquarters on the western outskirts of Baghdad.

He then had lunch with the 261st Theater Tactical Signal Brigade from Delaware, to which his son, Beau, belongs. Beau Biden stood in the back as his father greeted the troops. In telling the brigade about the naturalization ceremony, the vice president used some of his characteristic colorful language.

"We did it in Saddam's palace, and I can think of nothing better," he said. "That S.O.B. is rolling over in his grave right now."

Biden's unusually long three-day trip to Baghdad, which be-

gan late Thursday, was aimed at fostering political reconciliation after U.S. combat troops withdrew from Iraqi cities as part of a security pact that calls for a full withdrawal by the end of 2011.

Government's spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh's comments were in response to an appeal Biden made a day earlier for Iraqis to do more to bring the country's deeply divided factions together and his offer of U.S. help. Biden

also warned Friday that U.S. assistance may not be forthcoming if the country reverts to ethnic and sectarian violence.

"The political situation won't accept that the United States intervenes in an internal issue, whether that issue is reconciliation, relations between various Iraqi groups or between the (self-ruled Kurdish) region and Baghdad," al-Dabbagh said on Iraqi state TV.



U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, right, talks with his son, U.S. Army Capt. Beau Biden, at Camp Victory on the outskirts of Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, July 4, 2009.

Iranian hardliner calls opposition leader US agent

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—A top aide to Iran's all-powerful leader has accused the country's main opposition leader of being an American agent who should be tried for treason, increasing the pressure on reformists disputing the outcome of last month's presidential election.

There was no immediate reaction from Mir Hossein Mousavi to the accusation in an editorial Saturday in the conservative daily newspaper Khayan. Mousavi, who claims he was fraudulently deprived of victory in the June 12 election that gave Mahmoud Ahmadinejad a second term, has not been seen in

public in recent days.

The editorial, by Hossein Shariatmadari, a top aide to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, raised the possibility that Mousavi could be arrested and charged like many other pro-reform figures.

The accusation appeared to be part of an effort by the leadership to portray the opposition and those behind the street unrest as agents working for foreign powers.

A detained Iranian employee of the British Embassy has also been charged with harming Iran's national security, his lawyer said Saturday, in a

step certain to increase tension with Europe.

In the editorial against Mousavi, Shariatmadari wrote, "It has to be asked whether the actions of (Mousavi and his supporters) are in response to instructions of American authorities."

He added that Mousavi was trying to "escape punishment for murdering innocent people, holding riots, cooperating with foreigners and acting as America's fifth column inside the country" and called for Mousavi and former reformist President Mohammad Khatami to be tried in court for "horrible crimes and treason."

impossibly clinging to a piece of debris. Cyrille, a merchant marine from Madagascar, had been heading with a team of rescuers toward a distress signal after the plane crashed Tuesday in the Indian Ocean off the coast of this former French colony. Bahia Bakari, 12, was the only survivor of the crash. The other 152 people on board—including Bahia's mother—are presumed dead.

Michelle Obama bringing glamour to Moscow

MOSCOW (AP)—Michelle Obama brings her superstar glamour to Moscow this weekend as she accompanies her husband on his summit with the Russian president. But the American first lady, who has wowed publics in the U.S. and Europe with her easy elegance and charm, will perhaps face a bigger challenge in winning over a Russian public that has scant respect for women who grab the limelight from their powerful husbands. In a country where a presidential candidate once quipped he'd sooner pack his wife off to a convent than allow her to dabble in politics, Russia still has trouble with the concept of an empowered woman behind the throne.

Health & Fitness

Mile for mile, a dog is a man's (or a woman's) best workout partner

By **VICKY HALLETT**
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Unlike first kids Malia and Sasha, my brother and I never convinced our parents to let us adopt a dog. "I'm allergic," lied my dad, while my mom came up with a more creative excuse:

"We don't believe in species subjugation." Actually, they didn't believe in picking up poop. Which, in hindsight, is understandable.

But I've come up with a new, foolproof tactic for kids pleading for a Portuguese water pup: Tell your parents it could help them lose weight.

Then hand over a copy of "The Dog Diet: What My Dog Taught Me About Shedding Pounds, Licking Stress and Getting a New Leash on Life." The author, Patti Lawson, found herself quite by chance saddled with a pooch; she then discovered, just as unexpectedly, that her new roommate was shrinking her waistline—by stealing her snacks, providing the comfort she used to look for in pints of ice cream and forcing her to wake up before

dawn for walks. (The first lady could certainly vouch for that last point: A few weeks ago, she told a group of congressional wives that Bo has her up and out at 5:15 a.m.)

"She wanted to be so active, and it became much more fun," says Lawson, who quickly discovered that exercise with her furry personal trainer could be its own reward. "And she never begged me to stop for a latte, like my girlfriends."

Jessica Berger Gross shares a similar experience in "enLIGHTened: How I Lost 40 Pounds with a Yoga Mat, Fresh Pineapples, and a Beagle Pointer." When she and her husband adopted Salem from a shelter, they figured they were signing up for "love and snuggles," not a weight-loss program. But that was before they realized that only an exhausted Salem wouldn't chew up their furniture.

"Living and exercising with a dog teaches you to integrate fitness in a natural way. It's not always about putting gym clothes on," Gross says. Instead, she and her husband learned to burn calories by heading to the dog park and exploring hiking trails. Now they're walking for an hour a day, and often plan two- or three-hour excursions on weekends, which help improve their attitudes as well as Salem's.

"We become grumpy if we don't get our exercise," she adds.

Before you go off and adopt a dog for the fitness benefits, though, remember that unlike a set of stretchy bands, the total tail-wagging package comes with a fair share of slobbering and shedding. If you're like my parents (or apartment-dwelling me), that might sound a little, well, ruff.

And there's another way to dabble in dog time. Every other Saturday morning, volunteers for the Washington Humane Society gather to give the friskiest residents of their two shelters a workout. Kevin Simpson, director of animal training and behavior for WHS, has dubbed the year-old group the People & Animal Cardio Klub, or PACK. (Because pack animals run together. Get it?)

"People love it because they're helping out and getting exercise," he says. The cooped-up canines get an even better deal: They're socializing and blowing off steam, which means they'll be better behaved and, thus, more adoptable.

Watching the group meet up a few weeks ago for a jog in Rock Creek Park, I realized it really is true what they say about runners coming in all shapes and sizes—including seven-pound, four-legged balls of fluff.

Calif. regulators warn of pot's cancer capability

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—It might take Californians a puff or two to get their heads around an apparent contradiction recently enshrined in state law. The same marijuana smoke that doctors can recommend to ease cancer patients' suffering must soon come with a warning saying it causes the disease.

State environmental regulators last month voted to place marijuana smoke on its list of hundreds of substances known to cause cancer. The decision could lead to warning signs in medical marijuana dispensaries and labels on packaged pot within a year.

A voter-approved measure made medical marijuana legal in California in 1996. Key backers included patients with serious illnesses such as cancer and AIDS who said pot helped them manage pain and nausea.

Medical marijuana advocates sought to downplay the significance of the state's decision, arguing researchers have long known that the smoke contains cancer-causing compounds.

"This does not mean in any

way that those carcinogens that appear in smoked marijuana, smoked cannabis, have any kind of causal relationship to cancer," said Kris Hermes, spokesman for Americans for Safe Access, a pro-medical marijuana group.

Regulators disagree. Scientists with the state's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment reviewed 27 studies of the links between marijuana and cancer in humans. Though not all the studies showed a link, regulators found that "marijuana smoke was clearly shown, through scientifically valid testing according to generally accepted principles, to cause cancer," according to an agency statement.

Dr. Thomas Mack, a University of Southern California epidemiologist and chairman of the committee, said the decision to list marijuana smoke as a cancer-causing substance should not surprise anyone.

"If you take a piece of vegetable material, a leaf, and burn it, you're going to get the type of compounds that cause cancer," Mack said.

Marijuana smoke and tobacco smoke share 33 of the same cancer-causing compounds, according to agency scientists.

Even so, the existing evidence is merely "suggestive" of a link between marijuana and cancer in humans, Mack said. Only in tests that subjected animals to ultrahigh doses of marijuana was the connection between the drug and cancer totally clear, he said.

To counter the conclusion that smoking marijuana carries major health risks, advocates were quick to jump on the flaws in studies reviewed by the committee.

For instance, regulators reviewed three studies that found connections between marijuana and lung cancer. Of those, two were conducted in North Africa, where smokers regularly mix marijuana with tobacco, a problem the committee acknowledged.

The committee also considered a large 2006 study that found not only did marijuana smokers show no higher risk for cancer than nonsmokers but possibly even less.

WORLD BRIEFS

Exiled Honduran president vows return on Sunday

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Ousted President Manuel Zelaya said Saturday that he would return to Honduras to try to retake office following last week's military-backed coup, despite warnings of a potentially bloody confrontation and the interim government's vow to arrest him and put him on trial. Honduras rebuffed demands by the international community to reinstate Zelaya in the name of constitutional order, thrusting the poor Central American nation deeper into political crisis and isolation. The Organization of American States met in Washington to consider suspending Honduras' membership because of the coup—though even before the emergency session, the interim government decided to pull out of the OAS rather than meet its ultimatum to restore Zelaya.

Rescuers recall saving sole plane crash survivor

MORONI, Comoros (AP)—Doe Cyrille and his crew searched for hours in crashing winds and waves up to 16 feet (5 meters) high for any sign of Yemenia Flight 626. Then they spotted a girl

Life & Style

Kim-Facey nuptials

J.C. Kim and Jeanette Facey tied the knot in Koror, Palau on June 27, 2009. They were wed at the Sacred Heart Church, the same church where the bride's parents were married 36 years ago. The occasion was followed by a reception at the Palau Pacific Resort. Prior to the wedding, Palau President Johnson Toribiong hosted a dinner cruise for the couple and their families, about 50 of whom came from off-island, in the Rock Islands, one of the most popular sights in Palau.

A couple of the guests, Bob and Sandy Welch, who are close friends of the Faceys and themselves regular visitors to Saipan, flew all the way from Wisconsin to attend the wedding in Palau. Bob Welch is also a World War II veteran.

Both the bride and groom are alumni of Mount Carmel School and graduated from Arizona State University. The newlyweds are currently living in Scottsdale, Arizona. *(PR)*



Jackson was loving and attentive father, many say



Macky Dancy Jr., 7, looks at a rarely seen portrait of Michael Jackson on display at the Dancy-Power Automotive Group, a showroom that sells luxury cars to celebrities, in the Harlem neighborhood of New York Thursday July 2, 2009.

NEW YORK (AP)—When Rabbi Shmuley Boteach brought his children to play with Michael Jackson's kids at Neverland Ranch some eight years ago, the rabbi's youngsters naturally made a beeline for the fabulous rides—the Ferris wheel, the roller coaster, the bumper cars.

But when Jackson's own kids asked to go on the rides, he gently reminded them of the family rules, according to Boteach: The rides were only for birthdays or special occasions. "He was very concerned that the kids grow up with the right values," says Boteach, Jackson's former friend and spiritual adviser.

They are the children of one of the most famous men to have walked the planet. But unlike other children of mega-celebrities, whose faces are recognizable around the world, those of Jackson's three kids—12-year-old Michael Joseph Jr., known as Prince Michael; 11-year-old Paris Michael Katherine; and 7-year-old Prince Michael II, known as Blanket—are barely known.

Home-schooled and often isolated in mansions or hotels, the children have appeared only in rare paparazzi shots, their faces usually covered by scarves or brightly colored masks.

That fact alone—that Jackson sought to hide his children's faces—would seem to speak of a dark, strange life. But those who've witnessed the family up close paint a brighter picture: a trio of engaging, intelligent, well-adjusted youngsters who adored their father. A father who, despite his eccentricities and the terrible controversy that surrounded him in later life, lived for his children and tried to make their lives as normal as—well, as normal as Michael Jackson could.

"To the extent that Michael Jackson's kids COULD have a normal life, he wanted them to have it," says Boteach, who eventually fell out with Jackson.

"Listen, I'm not here to whitewash the sins of Michael Jackson—he was

accused of some abominable things," says the rabbi, referring to the pop star's trial and acquittal on molestation charges. "But when it came to being a father, there was much to admire."

Dr. Tohme Tohme, a close friend and adviser to Jackson over the last year of his life, said he had "never seen a better father."

"He was the father and the mother," Tohme said. "He washed them and dressed them. I'm a father but I'm not sure I could do what he was doing with his children. They loved him so much."

Of course, even Jackson's closest friends are at a loss to explain what for many is the single most memorable image of Jackson as a father: the shocking moment when he dangled Blanket, then an infant, over a hotel balcony in Berlin, showing the baby off to fans with a delighted grin.

"What made that incident so inexplicable was that he was an OVER-protective father," Boteach says.

Others who've been close to Jackson in the past agree. When the children stayed in hotels, says one photographer who spent several years working for Jackson, his handlers had long lists of all the foods the children could and could not eat. He was afraid of allergies but also poisoning, says the photographer, Ian Barkley. At the ranch, Jackson would not let the children roam far for fear of coyotes, he says.

When Barkley spoke to the kids himself, he was impressed. "Paris and (the older) Prince really blew me away with how smart they were. They were really well-mannered and nice." And Jackson made sure they kept up with their studies. "Once I heard him ask the nanny if the kids had done their homework that day, and they hadn't yet and he was really not happy."

Yet Jackson also indulged his children in extravagances—he was known to rent out entire movie theaters so he

and his kids could see a first-run movie in peace, said close friend Uri Geller, the entertainer, who accompanied the family on one such outing.

"The times I've seen Michael with his kids, he was simply a great father," says Geller. "When I saw him alone in London, the first thing he said is how much he missed them. I know he loved them, and they loved him."

US Weekly editor Janice Min, whose magazine reported on Jackson's children this week, was surprised to discover how positive an outlook many Jackson associates had on the kids and their lives. "I would have thought it was a very gloom-and-doom picture, but across the board, everyone talked about these nice and seemingly normal kids," she says.

Still, for many people, the hardest thing to get past about Jackson's parenting style was those facial disguises. Geller, for one, is convinced the family saw it as a game. "It was a private joke on the media between Michael and the kids—the kids loved it," Geller says. "That's what Michael told me."

But others speak of more serious reasons. Stacy Brown, a former Jackson family confidant who fell out with the family at the time of the 2005 molestation trial—he was a prosecution witness—says Michael was truly afraid of kidnapping. But also, Brown notes, there was a strategy: If the kids wore masks when they were with Jackson, they could go safely unmasked when they weren't with him.

Still, says Brown, who co-wrote "The Man Behind the Mask," a Jackson biography, "mentally, it was just not right. Why put a mask on these beautiful children?"

There may be another, more poignant reason. "He detested the media interest in whether he looked like his children," says Boteach, the rabbi. "I think that was another concern. Those

rumors were hurtful to them."

Such discussion has only increased since Jackson's death, as the world wonders not only who will get custody of the children but also whether Jackson is their biological father. Jackson's ex-wife, Deborah Rowe, the mother of the two older children, says the children were conceived by artificial insemination. The surrogate mother of the youngest has not been revealed.

For now, Rowe is weighing whether to seek custody of her two children, while Katherine Jackson, the singer's 79-year-old mother, has temporary guardianship of all three. Jackson's will asks that permanent custody go to his mother.

Brown, the biographer, recalls running into Jackson and the kids in a town

near Neverland shortly before the trial.

"They were the most well-behaved, well-mannered, immaculately groomed children," Brown says. "It was all 'please' and 'thank you,' and 'excuse me.' Little Blanket was wearing a kilt, and Prince a three-piece suit, and Paris a white dress with blue flowers. We chatted. I'm telling you, the guy was tremendous with those kids."

Whatever happens, Boteach says, it was Jackson's greatest wish that his children know how much he loved them.

"Michael often said he knew that when the kids grew up, they'd be asked by biographers what kind of father he was," Boteach says. "He wanted the kids to know that he always put them first."

Jackson kids face hurdles to coping with his death

CHICAGO (AP)—No matter how unusual their lives may have been so far, Michael Jackson's children now face a universal trauma felt by all kids who suddenly lose a parent.

How the three young Jacksons fare is up to the remaining adults in their lives and whether they can create a sense of stability and security for the grieving youngsters, mental health experts say.

The challenges are particularly daunting for the Jackson kids, with no mother in the picture, custody issues, and unanswered questions ranging from Jackson's suspected drug use to whether he was even their biological father.

That's not to mention the eccentricities before Jackson's death, such as his Peter Pan fixation and drastic cosmetic surgeries, plus unproven allegations of sexual behavior with other children.

The public knows little about the sheltered children—Michael Jr., 12; Paris, 11; and Prince Michael II, 7. They were all born long after Jackson's heyday, and he kept them veiled—sometimes literally—from prying eyes. Whether they are resilient or particularly vulnerable to emotional trauma is unknown.

One thing is certain: "The loss of a parent is a catastrophe" for any young child, and the Jackson kids will need help coping, said Dr. Stuart Goldman, a psychiatrist with Children's Hospital Boston and Harvard Medical School.

"The kids need to be removed from the limelight and any exposure to television or media needs to be greatly minimized," said Dr. Louis Kraus, chief of

child and adolescent psychiatry at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. "The distortions of what they see there is not going to be healthy."

Jackson's will names his 79-year-old mother, Katherine Jackson, as the children's guardian. Since Jackson's June 25 death, they have been staying with her and other relatives at the family compound in Encino, a Los Angeles suburb.

An attorney for Jackson's cardiologist said the children requested and were allowed to see Jackson's body, after a psychiatrist was consulted.

Specialists say that isn't necessarily traumatizing. It can give children a chance to say goodbye after a parent's sudden death, and allow the permanence of death to sink in, said Demy Kamboukas, a trauma expert and scientist at New York University's Child Study Center.

Kamboukas and other mental health experts recommended counseling for children who've experienced a parent's death. It gives them a chance to talk about their feelings with an objective observer who isn't also grieving and who can assure them that feelings of fear, anger and loss of control are normal.

Many kids get over profound grief and end up handling a parent's death pretty well, said University of Chicago psychiatrist Dr. Sharon Hirsch.

The Jackson children may be able to, also, she said, "as long as the family rallies around them and helps to continue to love and support them." But, she added, "It isn't going to be easy."



A card signed by fans is shown at the gates of the late Michael Jackson's former residence, Neverland Ranch, in Los Olivos, Calif., Friday, July 3, 2009.

Recession adds to challenges for suburban arts

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—When he hired Itzhak Perlman as artistic director of the Westchester Philharmonic in 2007, Joshua Worby thought he'd hit a grand slam.

He figured that Perlman, a popular, world-famous violinist, would attract new subscribers, raise the reputation of a suburban orchestra just outside New York City and spur fundraising by 40 percent.

"That's the way we projected it," said Worby, the Philharmonic's executive director, "and most of it came true."

Sure enough, attendance doubled. Perlman said he was "extremely happy." Even one category of fundraising, donations from individuals, went up 25 percent.

Then the economy tanked, corporate giving dried up and the orchestra ended the 2008-09 season with a deficit instead of a surplus.

Orchestras, theaters, museums and other arts organizations in the nation's suburbs face the challenge to attract customers—and donors—from the same population going to the Chicago Symphony, the Smithsonian or Broadway plays.

With the recession cutting into corporate and government funding and making Americans cautious about their spending, the groups are working harder to promote their small-town advantages—especially an easier commute and cheaper ticket prices.

"You can see a show at our theater for what you would pay for parking downtown," says Terry James, execu-



In this Oct. 11, 2008 photo provided by the Westchester Philharmonic, Itzhak Perlman, right, debuts as the Westchester Philharmonic's artistic director, during a performance at the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College in Purchase N.Y.

tive director of the Marriott Theater in Lincolnshire, Ill., 35 miles outside Chicago. "Our average price is \$30, our top ticket is \$45. Our parking is free." And attendance is booming.

Producers warn, however, that convenience and low prices in the suburbs won't be a draw unless quality at least approaches what's available in the city.

"The appeal of the Westchester Philharmonic—and this is probably true of suburban orchestras throughout the country—includes the ease with which you can get to us, afford the tickets, park, get in and out," Worby said. "But it's a slippery slope because you can't fool audiences if your product is substandard. Manhattan is just 20 miles down the road."

Perlman agrees. "Convenience is just

icing on the cake," he said. "Nobody is going to say, 'I don't care what I listen to as long as it's close.'"

Outside San Francisco, the Berkeley Symphony also stresses convenience.

"We do play that up, that you don't have to drive across the Bay Bridge and pay your \$4 toll or whatever or take a BART train," says spokesman Kevin Shuck. "But part of our message to the Berkeley audience is that you don't have to go to the San Francisco Symphony to get high quality."

The Berkeley has also built a reputation as a champion of 20th century music under Kent Nagano, who has just stepped down after 30 years as music director. Shuck said attendance was up 6 percent in Nagano's final season and the orchestra is hoping that excitement

over new music director Joana Carneiro will keep attendance, corporate support and donations from dropping.

In Chicago's suburbs, musical theater is a major enterprise, with full-time professional theaters north, south and west of the city, all selling convenience unashamedly and all heavily subscribed and apparently recession-proof.

The 900-seat Marriott Theater, which is part of a resort and turns a profit, has almost 40,000 subscribers who see five musicals a year.

"We have not seen a dip in recent years, even after 9/11," James says. "But we know it's discretionary income and we know we can't just throw junk out there for people to see. I think our reputation stands up to downtown."

He says there's plenty of room for the suburban theaters, even when city theater is flourishing.

"If 'Wicked' is playing downtown, that's going to be competition," he says. But a show like that would also draw thousands of new theater customers, "and a lot of these new customers live in the suburbs," he said.

Kyle DeSantis, who runs the for-profit Drury Lane theater in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., says convenience plays a role in the theater's success, where he says attendance is up.

"People like the idea of not hassling with the driving and paying for the parking," he says. "But I'd like to hope the quality of the productions also brings people in."

He said it's possible the lower-priced suburban theaters could even benefit from the recession, but added: "If there's a hit, a show people want to see, people tend to pay whatever it costs."

Artists salute 'King of Pop' at La. Essence Fest

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Brass band musicians on trumpet, trombone and tuba belted out "A Closer Walk With Thee" as the Essence Music Festival gave a salute to Michael Jackson befitting a New Orleans jazz funeral procession.

At a concert featuring performances by Beyonce, John Legend, Ne-Yo and Salt-n-Pepa in the Louisiana Superdome, the festival paid homage to Jackson with a picture and video montage and the New Orleans-styled tribute.

With heads bowed, the brass band musicians played before a recording of Jackson's voice wafted throughout the arena. Photos flashed on screen of the late pop star as a young boy singing with his brothers.

The festival continues Saturday with more tributes to Jackson, who died June 25.

Queen Latifah said Jackson's unexpected death left many in the music world scrambling to pay proper respects.

"He was the greatest entertainer

of all time, bottom line," she said. "There's no one who can compare to him. There's no one who's had over 40 years of music in them from a child on up to being a 50-year-old and about to go on a world tour."

Legend, when asked about Jackson's death, said "he's the true definition of what it means to be a 'pop star' and no one else has reached that."

"I was looking forward to a comeback, planning to go see him in London



A New Orleans brass band performs a tribute song for Michael Jackson as Jackson's image rises above the stage during the Essence Music Festival at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, La., Friday, July 3, 2009.

and it's sad that we won't be able to see that," Legend said.

Friday marked the festival's highest attendance in its 15-year history, said Michelle Ebanks, president of Essence Communications Inc. She wouldn't provide figures, but reported a first-night sellout at the Superdome, which can seat about 85,000 people for football games.

Essence began selling tickets in January and launched a promotional concert series called the Road to Essence Music Festival, which hit major cities such as Orlando, Fla.; Cleveland; Chicago; and Houston. The tour ended Thursday in New Orleans at the House of Blues in the French Quarter with performances by R&B singers Joe and Chico DeBarge.

Neverland closes until after LA Jackson memorial

LOS OLIVOS, Calif. (AP)—Like an old Western boomtown, the makeshift village that sprang up around the gates of Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch was vanishing Friday, with visitors and vendors packing up tents, tarps, posters and CDs.

The dwindling fans were replaced by curious tourists spending the holiday weekend in nearby scenic towns.

A steady stream of weekenders drove up to the estate and took pictures or added their names to memorial poster boards. A Jackson impersonator with a white glove and shiny jacket danced for onlookers.

In deference to the pop star and his family, no events would occur at Neverland until after Tuesday's public memorial service in Los Angeles, according to a statement from Colony Capital LLC, which took control of Neverland in a venture with Jackson after he nearly lost the estate to foreclosure.

With the party over, several of those peddling T-shirts, bottled water and flowers said they would be off to Los Angeles by the end of the day.

Others were simply heading home.

"We've got to get back to work," said Jason Osborne of Santa Maria. He had designed shirts with a friend that contained an image of Jackson and the words, "I Paid My Respects at Neverland."



Networks to offer live Jackson memorial coverage

NEW YORK (AP)—The memorial for Michael Jackson may be a tough ticket live, but it shouldn't be hard to find it on television.

ABC, CNN, MSNBC and E! Entertainment are among the networks that have already announced plans to offer live coverage of the Tuesday memorial, set for 10 a.m. PDT in Los Angeles' Staples Center.

ABC is sending anchor Charles Gibson to Los Angeles for the story, setting

aside its typical daytime programming. CBS anchor Katie Couric will also be at the Staples Center, although the network has not yet said whether it was offering live coverage of the memorial.

NBC is not planning live coverage, but will wrap up highlights in a one-hour prime-time special Tuesday night.

CNN has seen its ratings soar with the Jackson story, and it will show the memorial on the main network and HLN (formerly Headline News). CNN

International will air the ceremony to the rest of the world. Anderson Cooper, Larry King and Don Lemon are the anchors for CNN coverage. Robin Meade, A.J. Hammer and Jane Velez-Mitchell will anchor at HLN. CNN en Espanol will also cover it.

Chris Jansing will anchor live coverage of the memorial on MSNBC. Fox News Channel hasn't announced its plans.

E! Entertainment will cover the ceremony on its television network and its Web site.



AP
U.S. singer Madonna performs on stage, during her Sticky and Sweet tour at the O2 arena, in London, Saturday, July 4, 2009.

Madonna pays tribute to Michael Jackson in concert

LONDON (AP)—Madonna paid tribute to Michael Jackson on Saturday night in the same arena where he was to stage his comeback, dancing along with an impersonator doing Jackson's distinctive moves.

Jackson, who died last week, was to begin a series of 50 concerts at the 23,000-seat O2 starting July 13.

A picture of a young Michael Jackson appeared on stage while Madonna was performing "Holiday," then the impersonator came on, wearing a sequined jacket, white T-shirt, white glove and white socks in the Jackson manner.

The music then switched to Jackson's song, "Wanna Be Starting Something," and the impersonator worked through Jackson's moves, including the famous moonwalk. The impersonator didn't sing.

After the number, Madonna told the crowd, "Let's give it up for one of the

greatest artists the world has ever known," and the crowd roared its approval.

The impersonator's appearance would not have surprised anyone paying close attention to Madonna's Web site, which had a picture of him dancing in rehearsal.

An estimated crowd of 17,000, including the fashion designer Valentino, turned out for Madonna's concert, the first of two this weekend in London on her "Sticky & Sweet" tour.

In the last dance, Madonna and her dancers all donned jeweled gloves on their right hands in a simple tribute. Behind the stage some words from Jackson's "Man in the Mirror" were flashed up briefly: "If you want to make the world a better place look inside yourself and make a change."

Yu Yin, a 29-year-old student from Beijing, rated the Jackson tribute as the high point of the concert "because she chose a picture of a young Michael which shows me she has an understanding of his lack of childhood life."

Woman chafes under demands of her overprotective mother

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a 35-year-old married woman who, unfortunately, has an overprotective mother. Mom was always clingy. When I was young I was rarely allowed to go anywhere without her, including visits to near-by homes of friends or family. She always had to come along, too.

Now, Mom is insisting I call her every night "so she can hear the sound of my voice" and I can let her know I'm all right. It's driving me insane. We live in the same town. If I go over to visit, she expects me to call her the minute I get home so she knows I'm OK. I finally put my foot down on that one. But still she pouts.

Mom is 70. If I tell her I won't call, she lays a guilt trip on me. The nightly phone conversation is always the same, and it has become a chore. I don't enjoy it, and needless to say, my husband isn't thrilled with it either.

I know of no one my age who calls her mother every night. Talking once a week to catch up on things would be better -- we could have an enjoyable conversation. How can I stop this without feeling horrible? Am I wrong?

CONFLICTED IN SOUTH CAROLINA



Dear Abby

DEAR CONFLICTED: I feel sorry for your mother. She apparently has no other life, no other interests beyond you. You have my sympathy, too, but at her age, it is unrealistic to expect her to change a pattern that was set 35 years ago.

I don't know how involved these nightly conversations with her are, but I recommend you make them very short. "Hi, Mom—I'm home. Goodbye!" Alternatively, you could agree upon a signal such as one ring of the phone so she'll know you are safe. Even then, she probably won't be satisfied, so be prepared.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently spent a few days with my 64-year-old brother, "Austen." His wife divorced him several years ago, and his latest girlfriend recently broke up with him. I suspect I know why. He has turned into a crashing bore.

My brother used to be interested in the people around him, but now it seems like he doesn't care about anyone but himself. He spends hours on end telling me—and anyone else who will listen—about the minutiae of his daily life. He talks about his chores, his plans for future chores and the shows he listens to on the radio.

He never once asked about me or the rest of the family, about our interests or activities unless it was a setup so he could deliver another monologue about something.

Austen wants to start dating again. Would I be doing him a favor by saying something about his self-centeredness? Or would I be hurting his feelings? I miss the way my brother used to be.

SILENT SISTER IN ARIZONA

DEAR SILENT SISTER: When did this personality change in your brother occur? Was it sudden, or has it been coming on for a long time? He may be depressed over the failure of his marriage and his latest romance. Or there may be an underlying physical cause.

As a loving sister, suggest that your brother have a check-up with his doctor if it has been some time since he's had one. If he wants to know why, it would not be out of line to tell him that when you visited him it seemed that his horizons are no longer as broad as they used to be, and you are worried that he may be depressed. But do not tell him you think he has turned into a self-centered bore because it would be both unkind and unhelpful.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

LA police plan for huge crowd at Jackson memorial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles city officials are preparing for massive crowds downtown during Tuesday's public memorial for Michael Jackson at Staples Center, even though only 17,500 tickets are being offered to the public.

Assistant Police Chief Earl Paysinger says anywhere from a quarter-million to 700,000 people may try to reach the arena, even though a wide area around Staples Center will be sealed off to those without tickets.

City Councilwoman Jan Perry strongly urged people to stay home and watch the memorial on TV. The ceremony will not be shown on Staples' giant outdoor TV screen and there will be no funeral procession through the city.

But public safety officials appeared to assume their requests to stay home would have little effect. Since Jackson's death, fans have flocked to Jackson sites from Los Angeles to his Neverland Ranch



AP
Brent Weinloot, right, of Venice Calif., who is a fan of the late pop star Michael Jackson, rests across the street from the Staples Center in Los Angeles, Friday, July 3, 2009 for tickets to Tuesday's memorial service.

in rural Santa Barbara County.

Staples Center is offering the memorial tickets through an Internet lottery. Eleven thousand tickets are for the arena and 6,500 for the adjacent Nokia Theatre.

People who want tickets must register on the Web at Staples-

center.com. After 6 p.m. Saturday, 8,750 names will be randomly selected to receive two tickets each. Notifications will go out on Sunday.

After the ticketing details were announced on television, it became impossible to log on to the arena's Web site.

More than 1 million seek tix for Jackson memorial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—More than 1.2 million people have now registered to get tickets for Michael Jackson's memorial service next week.

Only 11,000 tickets will be given out for the Tuesday service at Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles. Another 6,500 tickets will be given away for the Nokia Theater overflow section next door.

The only way to get tickets is to register for free at staples-center.com. After 6 p.m. Saturday, 8,750 names will be randomly selected to receive two tickets each.

Notifications will go out on Sunday.

City officials are preparing for massive crowds. Assistant Police Chief Earl Paysinger says anywhere from a quarter-

million to 700,000 people may try to reach the arena, even though a wide area around Staples Center will be sealed off to those without tickets.

City Councilwoman Jan Perry strongly urged people to stay home and watch the memorial on TV. The ceremony will not be shown on Staples' giant outdoor TV screen and there will be no funeral procession through the city.

No details were given about the actual memorial events, which come as the nation's second-largest city struggles with a \$530 million budget deficit. Perry said the cost of police protection for "extraordinary" events like the memorial is built into the Police Department's budget, but she still solicited help for "incremental costs."



AP
Michael Navarro, left, Michael Navarro, Jr., 7, center, and Gina Rodriguez, all from Los Angeles, sign and photograph a large poster at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, Saturday, July 4, 2009, which will be the site for the late pop star Michael Jackson's memorial service taking place Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

Last month, donations covered about \$850,000 of the city's \$1 million cost for the Los Angeles Lakers' NBA championship parade. Critics had blasted the idea of using city money when it is considering layoffs to close its budget gap.

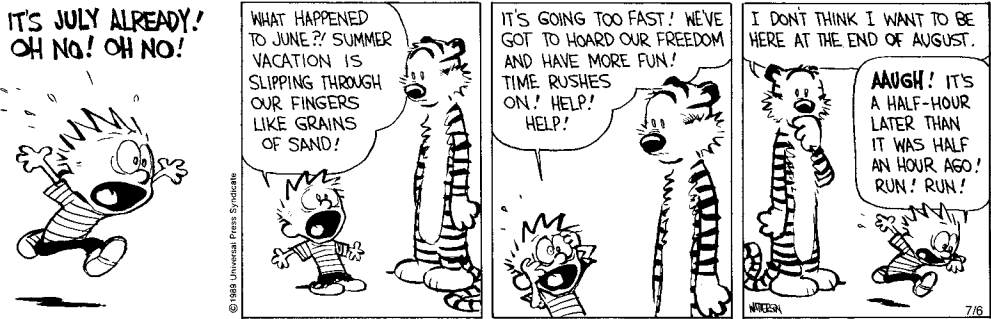
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

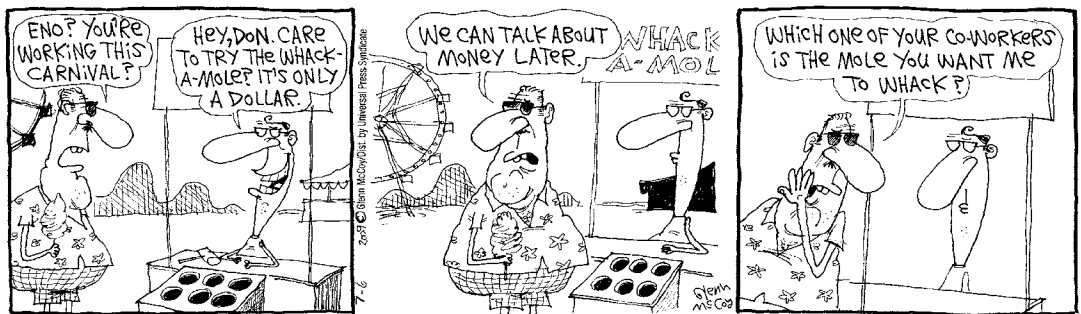
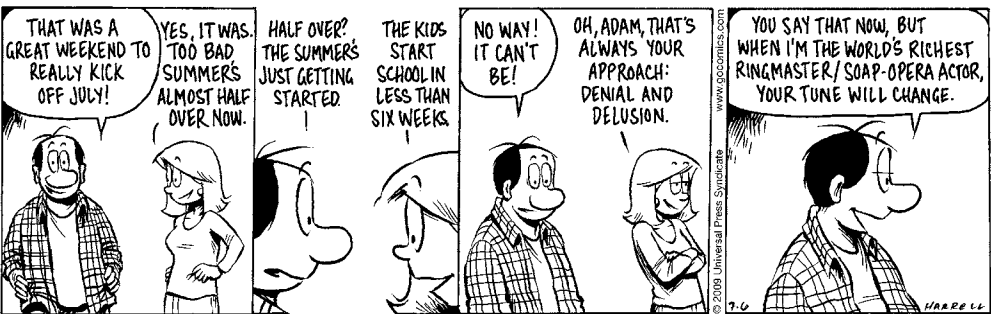


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hydrox
competitor
5 Bro's kin
8 Hawaiian island
12 Period
14 Opening day?
15 Womanly
16 Give as an example
17 Cross-word clue abbr.
18 White-board adjunct
20 Censoring sound
23 Hebrew month
24 Feedback fill
25 Inge play
28 Dallas sch.
29 Devour
30 Small barrel
32 NASCAR repair break

34 Deuce
35 Chooses
36 Song of praise
37 Long-short
40 Actress West
41 Cheer (for)
42 Voters in college?
47 Initial chip
48 Place where motorists take five
49 "Cheers" order

50 "Mayday!"
51 Sicilian volcano

DOWN

1 Vacationing
2 Regret
3 Shade tree
4 Pizza topping
5 Mix
6 Charged bit
7 Accelerates
8 Farm wagon
9 Parisian pals
10 Loathe
11 — friendly

13 Break suddenly
19 Grate
20 Derek and
21 Aladdin's —
22 Needle case
23 Cars
25 Soldiers
26 Gumbo base
27 Rind
29 Catch sight of
31 Workout room
33 Wobble
34 Infectious fly
36 Treaty
37 Colorless
38 Top-notch
39 Doves' home
40 Disarray
43 Virgo neighbor
44 Mel of baseball lore
45 Director Howard tub

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 7-6

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Matthew O'Leary, 22; Tia and Tamera Mowry, 31; 50 Cent, 34; Sylvester Stallone, 63

Happy Birthday: It's up to you to set rules that make you feel comfortable and to make promises you know you can keep. Look for unique interests—a class, a seminar or something that will contribute to a project you are working on. Wisdom will come through experience. You can feel good about who you are and the prospects that are before you. Your numbers are 5, 12, 17, 25, 28, 39, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Someone will cause emotional mayhem if you leave too much to the imagination. Speak precisely about what you are doing and avoid being misinterpreted. Don't learn the hard way: Slow down and cover your back. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Start a new hobby, take a mini vacation or spend the day conversing with people who can offer you sound advice and interesting options. Be a participant and make a difference. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use your imagination to come up with some interesting ways to make extra money. Don't let your emotions or someone you love talk you into more than you need. Get involved in a serious pastime. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Expect to be pulled in different directions, but you may have to make a choice that will influence your future. Altering your current path may be frightful but, fear not, what you learn will lead to interesting, enjoyable projects. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't get angry, get moving or you will have only yourself to blame for missing an opportunity. Consider trying something uniquely different that can aid you in developing a talent you haven't put to use. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stand up and do your thing and you'll surprise everyone and drum up support. A change is coming and you'll want to be on the receiving end. You can cut a great deal if you are fair, practical and willing to work. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Think twice before you rub someone the wrong way. You may end up paying personally for a mistake you make professionally. Don't let laziness be your downfall when you have so much to offer. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It's all about what you really want to do with the rest of your life. You can sit idle or you can make things happen. Get a handle on what's required of you to reach your goals and start the process. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take control and make things happen by talking your way into whatever interests you. Your imagination will take you a long way when dealing with others but make sure you can actually do what you say before making promises. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Deal with situations that are close to the heart. Take a proactive approach to partner-

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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ships, legalities and financial matters. A greater interest in someone younger will open your eyes to possibilities that you have not considered before. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let someone's emotional whims cause you to make a poor choice. Love is on the rise and, with a little effort on your part, you will win the approval you are looking for. A promise made and honored will prove your loyalty and dedication. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look at all the alternatives you have before giving in to something you aren't sure you want to pursue. An overtly aggressive conversation will clear up concerns that have been bothering you and holding you back. ★★★★★

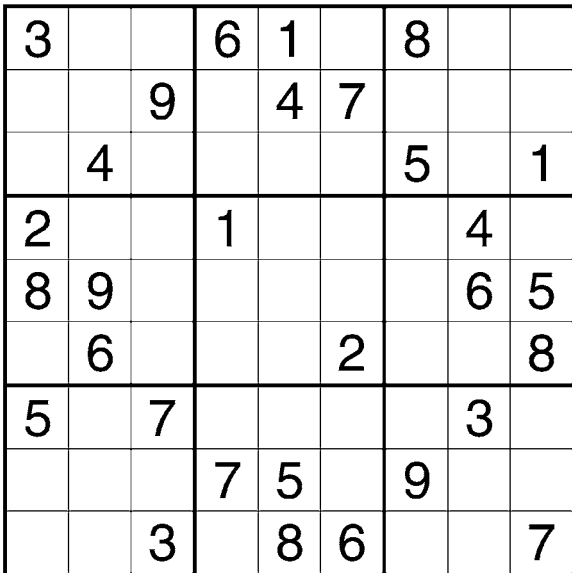
Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, practical, intent on doing things right and willing to work hard. You demand justice and fair play.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



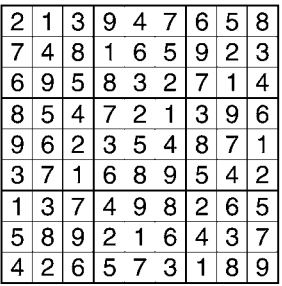
Difficulty Level ★

7/06

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LIST MAKING

Solution: 8 letters



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7/6

Alphabetical, Books, Catalog, Collaborative, Colors, Columns, Compose, Dreams, Formulate, Goals, Groups, Information, Look up, Manage, Marketing, Mind, Music, Notepad, Official, Order, Paper, Pens, Perform, Phone, Plan, Printable, Rate, Reach, Read, Reference, Santa Claus, Sort, Speech, Supplies, Task, To-Do, Wishes, Words, Writing

Last Saturday's Answer: Hearing

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Steve McNair killed in Tennessee



Police hold up a sheet as a body is taken out of the Nashville apartment where Steve McNair was shot on Saturday, July 4, 2009 in Nashville, Tenn.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Former NFL quarterback Steve McNair, who led the famous Tennessee Titans' drive that came a yard short of forcing overtime in the 2000 Super Bowl, was found dead Saturday with multiple gunshot wounds, including one to the head. Police said a pistol was discovered near the body of a woman also shot dead in a downtown condominium.

Nashville police spokesman Don Aaron identified the woman as 20-year-old Sahel Kazemi, whom he called a "friend" of McNair's. She had a single gunshot wound to the head.

Police said the 36-year-old McNair was found on the sofa in the living room, and Kazemi was very close to him on the floor. Aaron said the gun was not "readily apparent" when police first arrived.

Autopsies were planned for Sunday. Aaron said McNair's wife, Mechelle, is "very distraught."

"At this juncture, we do not believe she is involved," he said. "Nothing has been ruled out, but as far as actively looking for a suspect tonight, the answer would be no."

Fred McNair, Steve McNair's oldest brother, said some family members likely will travel to Nashville on Monday to consult with Steve McNair's wife.

"It's still kind of hard to believe," Fred McNair said. "He was the greatest person in the world. He gave back to the community. He loved kids and he wanted to be a role model to kids."

He said he did not know who Kazemi was.

The bodies were discovered Saturday afternoon by McNair's longtime friend, Wayne Neeley, who said he rents the condo with McNair.

Aaron said Neeley told authorities he went into the condo, saw McNair on the sofa and Kazemi on the floor but walked first into the kitchen before going back into the living room, where he saw the blood.

Neeley then called a friend, who alerted authorities.

Police said a witness saw McNair

arrive at the condo in the upscale Rutledge Hill neighborhood between 1:30 and 2 a.m. Saturday and that Kazemi's vehicle was already there. The condominium is located within walking distance of an area filled with restaurants and nightspots, a few blocks from the Cumberland River and within view of the Titans' stadium.

Two days ago, Nashville police arrested Kazemi on a DUI charge while driving a 2007 Escalade registered to her and McNair. McNair was in the front seat, but didn't break the law and was allowed to leave by taxi.

The arrest affidavit said Kazemi had bloodshot eyes and the smell of alcohol on her breath, but refused a breathalyzer test, saying "she was not drunk, she was high."

McNair and his family frequented the restaurant where Kazemi was a waitress, according to employees and patrons of Dave & Buster's in Nashville. Keith Norfleet, Kazemi's ex-boyfriend, told The Tennessean newspaper that McNair and Kazemi met at the restaurant.

"She was reliable 90 percent of the time," manager Chris Truelove said of Kazemi. "She was pretty outgoing. A lot of the guests liked being around her, and she liked being around the guests."

Co-worker Shantez Jobe, 33, she said was friends with Kazemi.

"We talked about who had more fashion sense, and who was the cutest, and who could get more boys, you know some of the stuff girls do," Jobe said.

In June, McNair opened a restaurant near the Tennessee State University campus. It was closed Saturday evening, but had become a small memorial, where flowers, candles and notes had been placed outside the door.

On the restaurant's windows were messages: "We will miss you Steve" and "We love you Steve."

A note attached to a small blue teddy bear read, "We will never forget you, Steve. Once a Titan, always a Titan."

"We don't know the details, but it is a terrible tragedy and our hearts go out to the families involved,"

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement.

McNair, a four-time Pro Bowl selection, led the Titans to the 2000 Super Bowl, which they lost 23-16 to the St. Louis Rams. He was co-MVP of the NFL with Colts quarterback Peyton Manning in 2003. He also played for the Baltimore Ravens before retiring in April 2008.

His most notable moment came in that Super Bowl, when he led the Titans 87 yards in the final minute and 48 seconds, only to come up a yard short of the tying touchdown. Kevin Dyson caught his 9-yard pass, but was tackled at the 1-yard line by the Rams' Mike Jones.

McNair accounted for all of Tennessee's yards in that drive, throwing for 48 yards and rushing for 14. The rest of the yardage came on penalties against the Rams. Before that, he brought the Titans back from a 16-0 deficit to tie the game.

"If you were going to draw a football player, the physical part, the mental part, everything about being a professional, he is your guy," former Ravens and Titans teammate Samari Rolle said. "I can't even wrap my arms around it. It is a sad, sad day. The world lost a great man today."

McNair grew up in rural Mount Olive, Miss., and became a nationally known college football star playing for Alcorn State, a Division I-AA school in his home state. He was so dominant in the Southwestern Athletic Conference, he became a Heisman Trophy contender. National media flocked to little Lorman in the southwest corner of the Magnolia state to get a look at "Air McNair." He still holds the Division I-AA (now known as Football Championship Subdivision) records for career yards passing (14,496) and total offense (16,823).

McNair was the third overall draft pick in 1995 by the Houston Oilers, who eventually became the Titans. He finished his career with 31,304 yards passing and 174 touchdowns. McNair's rugged style led to numerous injuries and aches. He played with pain for several years, and the injuries ulti-

mately forced him to retire.

"On the field, there isn't a player that was as tough as him, especially at the quarterback position," the Ravens' Derrick Mason said. "What I have seen him play through on the field, and what he dealt with during the week to get ready for a game, I have never known a better teammate."

During a five-game stretch at the end of the 2002 season, McNair was so bruised he couldn't practice. But he started all five games and won them, leading the Titans to an 11-5 record and a berth in the AFC championship game for the second time in four seasons.

McNair played all 16 games in 2006, his first season in Baltimore, and guided the Ravens to a 13-3 record. But he injured his groin during the season opener in 2007 and never regained the form that put him in those Pro Bowls.

"I am deeply saddened to learn of today's tragic news regarding the death of Steve McNair. He was a player who

I admired a great deal," said New England Patriots senior football adviser Floyd Reese, who was GM of the Titans when McNair played for them. "He was a tremendous leader and an absolute warrior. He felt like it was his responsibility to lead by working hard every day, no matter what."

Titans coach Jeff Fisher was out of the country, taking part in the first NFL-USO coaches tour to Iraq.

Ozzie Newsome, Ravens executive vice president and general manager, said he immediately thought of McNair's four sons.

"This is so, so sad. We immediately think of his family, his boys. They are all in our thoughts and prayers," he said. "What we admired most about Steve when we played against him was his competitive spirit, and we were lucky enough to have that with us for two years. He is one of the best players in the NFL over the last 20 years."

No funeral arrangements have been made.

Woods and Kim tied for lead at Congressional

BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—Anthony Kim finally gets a crack at Tiger Woods, and when he says he has been practicing for a moment like this all his life, Kim isn't kidding.

As a 10-year-old growing up in Los Angeles, in those final hours of twilight as he waited for his father to pick up from the golf course, Kim imagined he was in the final pairing with Woods and had a 10-foot putt for the victory, with the world's No. 1 player watching.

"Man, they were going in a lot," Kim said, laughing.

He can only hope fantasy meets reality Sunday in the AT&T National.

Kim kept his cool after a couple of blunders at Congressional, saving par from 84 yards with a creative chip he had been too scared to try in competition, then making birdie on the 16th that led to a 2-under 68 and his name atop the leaderboard.

Woods, having lost a three-shot lead in a span of two holes with a double bogey on the 11th, found one last birdie with a putt up the slope of the 16th green to tap-in range that allowed him to salvage a roller-coaster round at 70.

That gave him a share of the lead with Kim at 10-under 210, and gave Congressional a Sunday showdown a bustling gallery has been craving since the tournament began Thursday.

Woods is tournament host. Kim is the defending champion.

Woods is the guy who made golf cool, a multiracial talent who shattered records during his rise to No. 1. Kim is perfecting cool, a bundle of energy at 24 who practices with music blaring from his iPod.

They are separated by just under 10 years, but this generation gap seems wider than that. Woods also grew up in Southern California, and he often stayed late on the practice green dreaming of the putt to win a major.

And who was he trying to beat? Jack Nicklaus. Arnold Palmer. Ben

Hogan. Sam Snead.

Told about Kim's tale of trying to beat him, Woods offered a wry smile.

"I'm aging," he said. "That's what that means."

But he has been around long enough to have built a 45-3 record on the PGA Tour when he has at least a share of the 54-hole lead, a statistic that has defined why it's so tough to beat him.

Kim is only thankful for the chance. He has never played in the same pairing with Woods, nor has Kim ever finished higher than Woods in any of the tournaments they have played since Kim joined the PGA Tour three years ago.

But the kid has an idea what he'll see.

"I expect he's going to be wearing a red shirt and be out there ready to go," Kim said. "And I'll be ready, as well."

They both would do well to look over their shoulders, for this is far from a two-man race.

Michael Allen, who is 0-for-336 in his PGA Tour career but undefeated on the Champions Tour when he won the Senior PGA Championship earlier this year, made seven birdies in a round of 65, the best score Saturday.

Allen turned 50 in January and ventured out to play against men his own age only once, winning at Canterbury at a senior major. He has won on the Nationwide Tour, the PGA European Tour and the Champions Tour.

This one would be the most meaningful.

"It would be a culmination of what I've always been try to do," Allen said. "And champagne for everybody."

He was at 9-under 201 with Cameron Beckman, who chipped in for eagle on the par-5 16th for a 66.

A dozen players were separated by four shots going into the final round, including Jim Furyk (69) and Rod Pampling (71) at 8-under 202, and U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover (68) another shot behind.



Armstrong solid; Cancellara wins Tour's 1st stage



MONACO (AP)—Lance Armstrong put in a solid performance in his comeback at the Tour de France on Saturday, finishing the first stage ahead of 170 riders many years younger and a respectable 10th behind winner Fabian Cancellara.

Armstrong's Astana team was dominant in the time trial through the hills and hairpin turns of Monaco, led by the cyclist who would be his heir as Tour titan—Alberto Contador of Spain.

The Texan, who has a record seven Tour victories, is making his return to cycling's showcase event after ending a 3 1/2-year retirement this winter. The 37-year-old Armstrong, one of the oldest riders in the pack, had a chance to test out his legs and state of mind.

"I was nervous, I was excited, and trying to focus on doing the right race specifically in terms of starting easy and finishing good," he said. "When I finished, I was tired—yeah, it was a hard race."

Cancellara took the yellow jersey by finishing the 9.6-mile time trial in 19 minutes, 32 seconds—18 seconds ahead of Contador, the 2007 Tour winner.

"I didn't expect to win or to take the jersey. I didn't expect a super, super performance," Armstrong said. "It's been a long time since I've had that emotion of being on the start ramp at the Tour."

The race against the clock, in which riders set off one by one, offered an early shakeout about the potential contenders to win the three-week cycling showcase.

Contador showed he was ready.

"Fabian is a great champion ... (but) my form is very good," the 26-year-old



American seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong strains as he crosses the finish line of the first stage of the Tour de France cycling race, an individual time trial of 15.5 kilometers (9.63 miles) with start and finish in Monaco, Saturday July 4, 2009.

Spaniard said. "I must try to keep up this level. I think I have started well."

Contador was forced to sit out last year because of doping problems at Astana before he joined. He is a far better climber than Cancellara, and the Pyrenees loom in Stage 7.

Contador led four Astana riders into the top 10. Andreas Kloeber of Germany was fourth, American Levi

Leipheimer was sixth and rival Armstrong was 40 seconds back in 10th.

Contador got an edge on other title hopefuls. Two-time Tour runner-up Cadel Evans of Australia was 23 seconds behind Cancellara in fifth and Giro d'Italia winner Denis Menchov was 1:31 back in 53rd place.

Carlos Sastre, the reigning Tour champion, was 1:06 behind Cancellara.

The 34-year-old Spaniard wanted to wear the yellow jersey, his team said, but Tour organizers have ended the tradition of letting the previous year's champion ride in it for the start after Floyd Landis was stripped of his title in 2006 over a doping scandal.

Much has been made of Armstrong's rivalry with Contador, who also stands a chance to become one of cycling's

greatest riders. He has already won each of the Grand Tours of France, Italy and Spain—a feat accomplished by only five riders, and not Armstrong.

On his Twitter account, Armstrong hailed Leipheimer's "awesome" ride, but he didn't give an immediate reaction about the performance of Contador.

Armstrong, who rode 18th among the 180 riders to leave the start ramp, took the provisional lead early—baring his teeth and pedaling up out of the saddle as he neared the finish.

Only 15 riders later, Tony Martin of Germany outpaced him. Others also soon bettered Armstrong's time, including Leipheimer and Liquigas rider Roman Kreuziger.

"Kreuziger just moved into 2nd. I raced with his dad! Haha," Armstrong tweeted.

It was clearly an older Armstrong, not the Armstrong of old.

During his reign as Tour champion, Armstrong never finished lower than third in a time trial, except once, when he placed seventh in one in 2003.

"My heart rate—it didn't look exactly at the top, probably 196 (beats per minute maximum), so that's as hard as I can go," he said.

In another time trial in 2005, Armstrong outpaced Cancellara by more than a minute.

Cancellara, of the Saxo Bank team, will wear the overall race leader's yellow jersey for Sunday's second stage—a 16.2-mile ride across plains from Monaco to Brignoles, France.

"I think maybe in 5 years there are other riders coming and they will be faster than me. That's cycling—that's time," Cancellara said, when asked about Armstrong. "I also get older."

Ramirez homer not enough, Padres beat Dodgers



SAN DIEGO (AP)—Manny Ramirez's first home run since returning from a doping ban wasn't enough to help the Los Angeles Dodgers overcome the San Diego Padres, who won 7-4 in the National League on Saturday.

Ramirez homered in his second game and fifth plate appearance back. It was his seventh homer of the season and 534th of his career, tying Jimmie Foxx for 16th on the all-time list. Up next is Mickey Mantle with 536.

San Diego scored three runs in the seventh inning and added three unearned runs in the eighth. Everth Cabrera hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the seventh. He added an RBI infield single in the eighth, with a second run scoring on third baseman Casey Blake's throwing error.

Reds 5, Cardinals 2

In Cincinnati, Micah Owings homered and pitched into the seventh inning to help Cincinnati beat St. Louis.

Owings allowed just two runs in 6 2-3 innings with two walks and six strikeouts.

Brewers 11, Cubs 2

In Chicago, rookie Casey McGehee had a career high four hits and five RBIs to help Milwaukee pound Chicago.

McGehee delivered his best performance against the team that let him go during the offseason. Picked up by the Brewers, McGehee made the team in spring training and is now batting .331

in 46 games after going 4 for 5 on Saturday. He singled twice and tripled before hitting a two-run homer.

The Cubs had won three in a row.

Giants 9, Astros 0

In San Francisco, pitcher Tim Lincecum ran his career-best scoreless streak to 23 innings in winning his third straight start, and also scored the first run as San Francisco beat Houston.

The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner struck out nine in seven innings. He has gone 18 innings without allowing a baserunner past second.

The shutout was the Giants' majors-best 11th this season and fourth in their past seven games.

Phillies 4, Mets 1

In Philadelphia, veteran Jamie Moyer pitched neatly into the seventh inning, steering Philadelphia past New York.

Moyer allowed one run in 6 1-3 innings to win his third straight start. The 46-year-old Moyer tied for 42nd on the all-time list with his 253rd career win.

Jimmy Rollins hit a two-run double for the NL East-leading Phillies, who have claimed their first home series win this season against a team other than lowly Washington.

Marlins 5, Pirates 3

In Miami, Hanley Ramirez homered to help Florida down Pittsburgh.

Marlins starter Andrew Miller pitched effectively into the seventh in-

ning, allowing three runs while striking out four and ceding only one walk.

Diamondbacks 11, Rockies 7

In Denver, pinch-hitter Chris Young hit a tiebreaking, three-run double to cap a six-run eighth inning, helping Arizona end its three-game skid and beat Colorado.

After two walks, Young cleared the bases with a deep double.

The Rockies responded with three runs in the bottom of the inning but the damage was done.

Nationals 5, Braves 3

In Washington, the hosts rallied with four runs in the eighth inning to overcome Atlanta.

The defeat was tough on Atlanta pitcher Tommy Hanson, who extended his scoreless innings streak to 26 and left with a 3-1 lead in the seventh.

However the bullpen could not hold the lead, ending the Braves' winning streak at five.

Washington's Adam Dunn hit his 300th career homer.

Yankees 6, Blue Jays 5

In New York, Jorge Posada hit a game-winning single in the 12th inning to lift the New York Yankees to victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

With one out and runners on first and second, Posada lined a pitch into center field. Alex Rodriguez scored without a

play at the plate.

The Yankees have won nine of 10 to move a season-best 14 games above .500 and pull within a game of AL East-leading Boston.

Toronto has lost six of seven.

Mariners 3, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Chris Woodward's bases-loaded pop up in the ninth inning dropped behind a partially drawn-in infield, scoring the go-ahead run that lifted Seattle over Boston.

Seattle capitalized on Boston pitcher Takashi Saito's wildness for the winning rally. Saito walked the bases loaded with one out before Woodward's pop up, which scored the runner from third easily.

Rangers 12, Rays 4

In Arlington, Texas, Andruw Jones homered and drove in four runs as Texas crushed Tampa Bay and notched a fourth straight win.

Michael Young added a three-run double and the Rangers roughed up David Price to win their fourth in a row.

Jones' three-run shot in the first and Michael Young's bases-loaded three-run double gave the Rangers a 6-1 lead against an erratic David Price. They Rays pitcher gave up a career-high six runs in 1 1-3 innings and walked five in the shortest of his nine career starts.

Twins 4, Tigers 3

In Minneapolis, Justin Morneau had four hits, including a homer and the tying

single in the seventh inning, as Minnesota came back to beat Detroit.

The winner came in the eighth. Nick Punto poked a soft single over the outstretched glove of the shortstop to allow the pinch-runner to score on a head-first slide at the plate, just ahead of the relay throw.

Angels 11, Orioles 4

In Anaheim, California, Vladimir Guerrero hit a three-run homer and had four RBIs as Los Angeles used a late rally to beat Baltimore.

Guerrero capped a six-run eighth by hitting a pitch to left field. The Angels batted around the order in the eighth.

Royals 6, White Sox 4

In Kansas City, Missouri, Alberto Callaspo drove in three runs to help Kansas City snap Chicago's seven-game winning streak.

The Royals eclipsed their run total from their previous four games put together.

Callaspo hit an RBI triple in the fifth for Kansas City's first run in 13 innings. His two-run single in the fifth made it 5-4 and gave the Royals their first lead for 38 innings. Callaspo's errors at second base had figured in Kansas City's four-game losing streak.

Indians 5, Athletics 2

In Cleveland, pitcher Carl Pavano earned his first win in five starts, helping Cleveland defeat Oakland.

The Indians may be struggling this year but stretched their winning streak over the Athletics to six.

SERENA

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world is at the moment.

Serena has won three of the past four Grand Slam titles and even poked a little fun at Safina, who is 0-3 in major finals.

“If you hold three Grand Slam titles, maybe you should be No. 1, but not on the WTA Tour, obviously,” Serena said. Then, alluding sarcastically to two less-than-major events won by Safina, Serena doubled over in laughter after saying: “I see myself as No. 2. That’s where I am. I think Dinara did a great job to get to No. 1. She won Rome and Madrid.”

The sisters’ father, Richard Williams, used to say his youngest daughter would be the better

of the two, and the numbers back that up at this point: Serena leads in Grand Slam titles (11-7), in head-to-head matches (11-10), and in all-Williams major finals (6-2).

It was the 14th Grand Slam final for each Williams; no other active woman participated in more than four. Serena is 11-3 in such matches; Venus fell to 7-7, with all but one defeat coming against her sister.

Asked if it’s easier or harder losing to a sibling, five-time Wimbledon champion Venus said: “There’s no ‘easy’ to losing, especially when it’s so close to the crown.”

She was the two-time defending champion and had won 20 matches in a row at Wimbledon, the last 17 in straight sets. But Venus—at 29, she’s 15 months

older than Serena—appeared a step slow, perhaps bothered by the left knee that’s been heavily bandaged since the second round, although she refused to place blame there.

“She played so well, really lifted her game,” Venus said. “I had an error here and there. Today, I couldn’t make errors.”

Serena had more winners, 25-14, more aces, 12-2, and fewer unforced errors, 12-18.

About 3 1/2 hours after their match ended, Serena and Venus returned to Centre Court and capped their domination of the tournament by winning a second consecutive Wimbledon doubles championship. Slapping palms between points, the sisters beat Australians Samantha Stosur and Rennae Stubbs 7-6 (4), 6-4 to collect their ninth

women’s doubles Grand Slam title, fourth at Wimbledon.

“Nothing like winning a title with your sister,” Serena said.

That’s right: a quick turnaround from opponents to teammates. But they’re used to this routine. They’re still coached by their parents, who began teaching them the game 20-something years ago in Compton, Calif. They still share a house during Wimbledon. They still practice together.

During the singles final, the Center Court crowd of about 15,000 was not altogether sure for whom to cheer, going stretches without supporting either sister. Mom sat in the stands with arms crossed, while Dad had already left town, because he refuses to watch his daughters play each other.

As they walked to the sideline at the first changeover, crossing paths, the sisters avoided any eye contact whatsoever. Serena looked down at her racket, fiddling with the strings, the way she does against anyone else.

Surnames usually suffice when chair umpires announce the score, but that wouldn’t work for Saturday’s official, Alison Lang, who needed to use first names, as in: “Miss Venus Williams leads, 2 games to 1, first set.”

The wind swirled, the sun was bright as it peeked out from behind scattered clouds, and Venus kept catching her tosses on serves. That was the part of her game that was most dominant this fortnight, and the thing that let her down the most against Serena.

Venus wound up with more double-faults (three) than aces, and she was broken twice. Serena, meanwhile, saved the only two break points she faced.

Both came while Serena trailed 4-3 in the opening set,

serving at 15-40. On the first, Serena hit a 94 mph serve to the backhand side that Venus returned wide. On the second, Serena charged forward, and Venus had a wide-open court, but she pushed a forehand passing try long.

“Went for a little too much,” Venus said.

From deuce, Serena hit two aces, at 105 mph and 116 mph, to pull out the game.

They went to a tiebreaker, and Serena closed it with a lob that curled like a rainbow over her sister and landed in, no easy task when you consider Venus is 6-foot-1.

Serena wheeled around, her back to the court, and quickly celebrated with a pump of a fist, although no yells of “Yes!” or “Come on!”—one, tiny, indication she couldn’t completely banish from her mind the thought that Venus was on the other side of the net. Then Serena walked to the sideline, her left fist clenched and her face blank.

RAFFY’S

From Page 28

it scored only three points on James Abuy’s triple in the first four minutes of the game.

Without Raffy’s Diner frontliners, Cabalen’s Jessie Mina and company led by as much as 12 points in the first period, 19-7. Elmer Pineda, Jimmy Salazar, and Ed Garcia made a field goal apiece

in the closing minute to cut the lead to seven at the end of the third period, 14-21.

There was a change of fortunes in the second quarter with De La Torre leading Raffy’s Diner’s rally and Jinang waxing hot from downtown.The duo combined for 16 of Raffy’s Diner’s 27 second-quarter point and gave their team a 41-33 halftime lead.

Mina, after being held to a field goal in the second quarter, took charge for Cabalen in the

third period, drilling 12 markers to move the erstwhile leader within a point entering the pay-off period, 57-56.

Cabalen even regained the lead in the fourth quarter, as Mina continued to find his mark. However, clutch baskets from De La Torre and Jinang and a couple of free throws preserved the win for Raffy’s Diner. Jinang made two layups in the fourth period and added one free throw. Abuy went 2-for-2

from the foul line, while Art Trajano and Elmer Pineda had one charity apiece.

Raffy’s Diner/Boholanos 78 – De La Torre 20, Abuy 19, Jinang 14, Pineda 7, Salazar 5, Trajano 5, Garcia 4, Moran 4.

Cabalen 76 – Mina 29, Andales 10, Abuan 8, Alcantara 8, Fernandez 7, Pacheco 3, Alegre 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-21, 42-33, 57-56, 78-76.

NMASA

From Page 28

to NMASA members and officials last Thursday night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, detailing steps that would help NMASA raise funds for its athletes/member associations, and programs.

“NMASA will analyze the presentation and give it very serious consideration. We will have to determine what will work for us, and adapt the good ideas to suit our particular circumstances,” NMASA president Michael A. White said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Saipan Tribune is not authorized to discuss details of the

strategy options due to protocol, but basically the marketing strategy aims to bring together all stakeholders in the sports community and combined their resources to meet the needs of the athletes, coaches, various federations, and all other sectors concerned.

It specifically defines the roles of the government, private sector, and sports officials themselves in providing support and leadership to CNMI sports development.

White said NMASA considers the strategy options as a challenge to the organization, especially at this time of financial problems.

“While some general principles were suggested, no spe-

cifics have been adopted by NMASA. Raising funds is always a challenge, even in good economic times. NMASA will have to rise to the challenge,” the NMASA president said.

White also thanked Maharaj for showing NMASA the way to self-sufficiency.

“NMASA is very grateful to Mr. Maharaj for sharing his considerable expertise with us, and to the Pacific Games Council for making Mr. Maharaj available to us. We are the only Pacific Games country that gets no financial assistance either from the Olympic movement or from a parent country. The CNMI must become self-reliant if we are going to grow and progress, and Mr. Maharaj has

given us some very valuable ideas about how we might be able to get where we need to go,” White said.

Laurie Peterka, president of the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association, was among those who witnessed Maharaj’s presentation, which she said is something NMASA can work on in the future.

“I am delighted with the level of energy and optimism that Atma brought to this month’s NMASA meeting. It is a good sign that our board sees the need for more formal planning and fundraising. As Atma noted in his presentation, you can’t get anywhere without a plan,” Peterka said.

NGIRCHONGOR

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later, Ngirchongor is back at the airport, but this time for his own farewell, as he will be competing in the Sudtiroi 2009 World Youth Championships this week.

Ngirchongor left Saipan last Saturday evening to represent the CNMI in the IAAF-sanctioned tournament that will run from July 8 to 12 in Sudtiroi, Italy.

The 16-year-old Marianas High School student will be the second member in their family to carry the CNMI flag in an IAAF event.

Nine years ago, Ngirchongor’s older brother, Shane, raced in the 400m run in the 8th IAAF World Junior Championships in Athletics in Santiago, Chile. In 2003, Shane made his second appearance in an IAAF event through the World Championships in Paris, France.

Ngirchongor admitted his

brother and sister [Dena], who were both active in athletics during their early teens, inspired him to try the sport, two years ago. However, though running runs in his blood, the WYC ticket was not presented to him on a silver platter.

Coach Ronald Olopai, who will accompany Ngirchongor in Italy, said the young runner earned his slot.

“He’s been training hard for the past several months. He has shown a lot of improvements since he started joining the sport in 2007. He worked hard to get the chance to compete in the WYC,” Olopai said.

Ngirchongor, who helped the MHS Dolphins win this year’s All Schools Track and Field Championships, said he trained almost every day for about three hours.

“After my class, I rest for a while and by 4pm I should be at the track and stay there past 7pm,” said Ngirchongor, add-

ing that he looks forward to a great learning experience in the world-class meet.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for a young athlete like me and I am thankful to NMA, to my coaches, and my family for supporting me and encouraging me to do my best in every race,” he added. “I am a bit nervous, but at the same time excited, as I will be running in front of a big crowd from different countries.”

Ngirchongor will be competing in the 200m race in the five-day tournament that will feature around 1,500 youth athletes from 140 IAAF-member nations.

He is aiming to improve his personal best time (24 seconds) and will also try his best to inch in closer to the CNMI record. Tyrone Omar holds the CNMI mark in the 200m after clocking 22.40 seconds during the XIII Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa in 2007.

Besides the competition, the

event in Sudtiroi, an autonomous region in Northern Italy and also called Trentino-Alto Adige, will offer participants a chance to talk to athletes who have been Olympic champions, World champions or World record holders through the IAAF World Youth Masterclass.

The class will be held today and will have IAAF Ambassadors making inspirational speeches. The list include double Olympic champion Kelly Holmes and World and Olympic champion Maria Mutola of the women’s 800m, men’s 800m World record holder Wilson Kipketer, World Indoor high jump record holder Kajsa Bergqvist, World long jump record holder Mike Powell, and European 400m hurdles record holder Stephane Diagana.

Also included in today’s class are an anti-doping workshop and warm-up sessions with some of the sport’s all-time greatest athletes.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES		
MLB STANDINGS		
AMERICAN LEAGUE		
East Division		
Boston	W 48 L 32 Pct .600	GB —
New York	47 33 .588	1
Tampa Bay	44 38 .537	5
Toronto	42 40 .512	7
Baltimore	36 45 .444	12 1/2
Central Division		
Detroit	44 36 .550	—
Chicago	42 39 .519	2 1/2
Minnesota	42 40 .512	3
Kansas City	34 46 .425	10
Cleveland	33 49 .402	12
West Division		
Los Angeles	44 35 .557	—
Texas	44 35 .557	—
Seattle	42 38 .525	2 1/2
Oakland	33 46 .418	11
NATIONAL LEAGUE		
East Division		
Philadelphia	41 37 .526	—
Florida	42 40 .512	1
Atlanta	39 41 .488	3
New York	39 41 .488	3
Washington	23 55 .295	18
Central Division		
Milwaukee	43 38 .531	—
St. Louis	44 39 .530	—
Cincinnati	40 39 .506	2
Chicago	39 39 .500	2 1/2
Houston	38 41 .481	4
Pittsburgh	37 44 .457	6
West Division		
Los Angeles	51 30 .630	—
San Francisco	44 36 .550	6 1/2
Colorado	42 38 .525	8 1/2
San Diego	35 45 .438	15 1/2
Arizona	32 49 .395	19
Yesterday's Games		
Washington 5, Atlanta 3		
Milwaukee 11, Chicago Cubs 2		
Cincinnati 5, St. Louis 2		
San Francisco 9, Houston 0		
San Diego 7, L.A. Dodgers 4		
Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Mets 1		
Florida 5, Pittsburgh 3		
Arizona 11, Colorado 7		
Seattle 3, Boston 2		
N.Y. Yankees 6, Toronto 5, 12 innings		
Kansas City 6, Chicago White Sox 4		
Minnesota 4, Detroit 3		
Cleveland 5, Oakland 2		
Texas 12, Tampa Bay 4		
L.A. Angels 11, Baltimore 4		
AT&T NATIONAL SCORES		
BETHESDA, Maryland (AP) — Scores Saturday at the AT&T National, a \$6.2 million PGA Tour event played on the 7,255-yard, par-70 Congressional Country Club Course (a-denotes amateur):		
By The Associated Press		
LOCAL SCORES		
UFO MASTERS STANDINGS		
Boholanos	2	0
Cabalen	2	1
Bayani	2	1
NMBA	1	2
MDX	1	2
MAFEA	0	2
MFICPA	0	1
Cliff Kresge 70-67-67—204		
Ryan Moore 69-66-69—204		
Danny Lee 68-67-69—204		
Bryce Molder 64-70-70—204		
Boo Weekley 67-69-69—205		
George McNeill 70-66-69—205		
Stuart Appleby 66-69-70—205		
Brandt Snedeker 68-70-68—206		
Steve Marino 73-65-68—206		
Hunter Mahan 69-69-68—206		
Davis Love III 69-67-70—206		
Daniel Chopra 66-68-72—206		
D.A. Points 64-70-72—206		
Matt Bettencourt 70-71-66—207		
Fred Couples 72-67-68—207		
Justin Rose 67-71-69—207		
Robert Garrigus 70-68-69—207		
Mark Wilson 70-67-70—207		
Ryan Palmer 69-67-71—207		
Nathan Green 71-71-66—208		
Marc Leishman 70-71-67—208		
Charley Hoffman 71-69-68—208		
Tim Petrovic 68-71-69—208		
Ted Purdy 73-66-69—208		
James Nitties 71-67-70—208		
Vijay Singh 70-68-70—208		
Y.E. Yang 67-71-70—208		
Kevin Streelman 70-67-71—208		
Jason Bohn 72-70-67—209		
Sean O'Hair 69-72-68—209		
Aaron Baddeley 72-68-69—209		
Charles Warren 73-67-69—209		
Bill Lunde 70-68-71—209		
Steve Elkington 65-73-71—209		
Dean Wilson 69-69-72—210		
Scott McCarron 72-65-73—210		
J.J. Henry 76-66-69—211		
Chez Reavie 70-71-70—211		
Rocco Mediate 70-69-72—211		
Nick O'Hern 71-70-71—212		
Bo Van Pelt 69-72-71—212		
Jason Dufner 72-69-71—212		
Steve Flesch 69-72-71—212		
Peter Lonard 70-70-72—212		
Jeff Quinney 69-73-71—213		
Webb Simpson 74-67-72—213		
John Senden 71-70-72—213		
Nicholas Thompson 71-70-72—213		
Bart Bryant 68-72-73—213		
Harrison Frazar 69-70-74—213		
Nick Watney 70-72-72—214		
Notah Begay III 70-72-72—214		
Mike Weir 71-71-72—214		
Joe Ogilvie 69-72-73—214		
Paul Goydos 73-68-74—215		
a-Matt Hill 71-69-75—215		
Brian Davis 70-72-74—216		
Chris DiMarco 70-72-74—216		
Michael Letzig 68-74-74—216		
David Mathis 71-71-74—216		
Chris Stroud 74-67-75—216		
Kevin Stadler 69-73-75—217		
Ricky Barnes 70-72-75—217		
Martin Laird 70-71-76—217		
Troy Matteson 69-71-77—217		
Jeff Maggert 72-70-77—219		
James Driscoll 70-70-80—220		
Marc Turnesa 71-69-80—220		

The Week in Sports

Drought-ending wins for CNMI athletes

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After bidding visiting participants in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament goodbye, Saipan welcomed the triumphant return of the CNMI Junior All-Stars, who earned a World Series entry after ruling the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The CNMI Junior All-Stars returned on Saipan in batches with the last one coming home last Thursday morning and assuring the Commonwealth a trip to Taylor, Michigan this year after missing the last three flights.

The CNMI bets advanced to the World Series after beating Guam in the finals, 10-9.

While the CNMI's youth sluggers

struggled to down Guam at the Gelora Bung Karno Baseball Field, the Ford Rangers had an easier time securing the championship in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

An 18-2 win in Game 3 last Monday night allowed the Rangers to sweep their best-of-five title series against the D-9ers. The victory also ended the Rangers three-year title drought and two-year bridesmaid finish.

Also halting a skid was CNMI junior netter Ji Hoo Heo.

The Marianas High School student competed in the Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships 2009 in Lautoka, Fiji last week and made it to the quarterfinals.

Heo ended his losing skid against New Zealand's Ari Davis after cruising to a 6-4, 6-4 win in their Round of 16

game. The CNMI netter also prevailed against Arman Abdollahi of Australia in the second round, 6-2, 6-1, before faltering in his semis bid over tournament top seed Barret Franks of New Zealand, 3-6, 6-7 (6-8).

Youth bowler Raphael Zapanta had no problems with droughts, as he continued his string of victories in the Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes.

Zapanta won the June roll-off for his sixth straight monthly plum.

In the adults roll-offs, Robert Talavera won his first Budweiser King of the Lanes crown of the year, while Ron Cal took her second tiara of 2009.

Former youth bowler Raymond Angeles, meanwhile, became the 10th local bowler to roll a perfect game when he knocked down 300 pins at the Capital Bowling Center in the Friday Night League last June 26.

Also being crowned last week were the champions in the three divisions of the 2009 UBA Summer Youth Basketball League.

The Sonics and Kagman Ayuyus swept separate foes to rule the Division I (15-and-under) and Division II (17-and-under) of the inaugural caging.

The Sonics won Games 1 (65-53) and 2 (71-56) to wrap up the best-of-three series against Rollers A, while the Ayuyus did the same in Division II after thumping the Sixers in Games 1 (54-50) and 2 (62-51).

In Division III (20-and-under), Rollers swept the last two games to prevail over Pink Bunny's. The IT&E-backed Rollers took Games 2 (56-47) and 3 (60-56), while Pink Bunny's won Game 1, 56-52. Most of the games in the UBA caging were played at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Over at the JP Center Basketball Court, the Inaugural 2009 Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League concluded its regular season, while some matches in the masters and open division of the UFO caging were rained out.

Still in basketball, CNMI Nationals' Connie Camacho and Jericho Cruz were named NMASA Female and Male Athlete of the Month (for June) for leading the Commonwealth's bid in the FIBA caging.

Cruz and Camacho both made it to the FIBA Oceania All-Stars Selection for showing consistency in the week-long tournament.

Also getting the monthly recognition was Mathew Mancao, who was named Male Student Athlete of the Month for placing in the Top 3 in the 16th Annual Thomas Picarro Fun Run.



The Sonics flash the No. 1 sign after ruling Division I of the UBA youth caging.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

June Budweiser Queen of the Lanes Ron Call is flanked by runners-up Gina Sablan, left, and Diane Chong after last Monday's roll-off at the Saipan Bowling Center.



Raymond Angeles rolled the first perfect game of 2009 when he knocked down 300 pins last June 26 in the Friday Night League.

MARK RABAGO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ji Hoon Heo, seen here during a break in a tournament on Saipan early this year, ended his losing skid against New Zealand's Ari Davis after cruising to a straight set win in their Round of 16 game in the Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships 2009 in Lautoka, Fiji.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Connie Camacho, right, seen here with the four other members of the FIBA Oceania Women's All-Stars Selection from left, New Zealand's Zoe Kensington, Guam's Derin Santos, Australia's Caitlin Rowe, and New Caledonia's Myriam Fenuafanote, is named NMASA Female Athlete of the Month (for June).



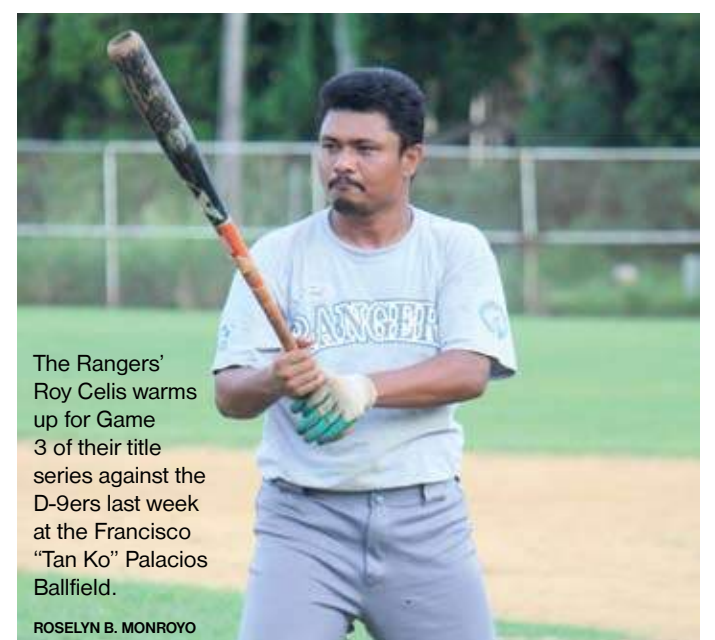
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Junior All-Stars pose for a group photo after beating Guam in the final of the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament at the Gelora Bung Karno Baseball Field in Jakarta, Indonesia.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Advance's Rodel Apostol, left, and Shirley's Dennis Catindoy battle for the loose ball during the last regular season game in the Shirley's caging at the JP Center Basketball Court last week.



The Rangers' Roy Celis warms up for Game 3 of their title series against the D-9ers last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Drought-ending wins for CNMI athletes



After bidding visiting participants in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament goodbye, Saipan welcomed the triumphant return of the CNMI Junior All-Stars. **27**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Steve McNair killed in Tennessee

Former NFL quarterback Steve McNair, who led the famous Tennessee Titans' drive that came a yard short of forcing overtime in the 2000 Super Bowl, was found dead Saturday with multiple gunshot wounds, including one to the head. **24**



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Serena beats sister Venus at Wimbledon

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Serena Williams kept telling herself she was facing just another foe in the Wimbledon final Saturday, just another woman who hits the ball quite hard, just another player trying to deny her a Grand Slam title.



She wasn't facing just anyone, of course. She was playing her older sister Venus. And when the latest all-Williams final finished, when Serena wrapped up a 7-6 (3), 6-2 victory for a third Wimbledon championship and 11th major title overall, she jogged to the net with her arm extended for a handshake.

Venus pulled her close for a warm embrace, instead.

"I didn't think about Venus at all today. I just saw her as an opponent," said Serena, who also beat her sister in the 2002 and 2003 finals at the All England Club. "At one point, after the first set, I looked on the side of the court at the stats, and it was like 'Williams,' 'Williams.' I couldn't figure out which was which."

That also might have been because she was facing the only other woman who can equal her power and court coverage on grass courts. Monday's rankings will say Serena is No. 2, and Venus No. 3—behind No. 1 Dinara Safina, a 6-1, 6-0 loser to the elder Williams in the semifinals—but it is clear who the best woman in the

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Serena Williams holds the championship trophy, after defeating her sister Venus to win the women's singles final on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Saturday, July 4, 2009. **AP**

DJ Ngirchongor off to World Champs in Italy

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



In 2000, D.J. Ngirchongor was at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport (then Saipan International Airport) for a send-off for his older brother, Shane "The Quicksilver" Ogomoro. Nine years

See NGIRCHONGOR on Page 26



D.J. Ngirchongor is seen here practicing at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility last Friday before leaving for Sudtiro, Italy last Saturday to compete in the Sudtiro 2009 World Youth Championships this week. **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**

Raffy's Diner takes solo lead in masters

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Raffy's Diner-Boholanos ended Cabalen's brief stay at the top spot of the masters division of the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League after pulling off a 78-76 victory last Friday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

Raffy's Diner's two-point win snapped Cabalen's two-game winning run and put the former in solo lead with its 2-0 record. Cabalen slipped to a tie for second place with Bayani.

Ferdie De La Torre top-scored for Raffy's Diner, firing 20 points, including six crucial markers in the fourth period. He, Ariel Jinang, and James Abuy filled the void left by their key players on offense. Raffy's Diner was without Ed Cosino, Danny Bicera, and Edsel Mendoza.

Raffy's Diner felt the absence of its stratospheric frontline early when

See RAFFY'S on Page 26



Raffy's Diner forward James Abuy, left, is seen here battling NMBA-Ebisuya's Dante Olivos for the loose ball during their rain-suspended game in the masters division of the UFO caging late last month at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan. After the rain-halted debut, Raffy's won its next two games. **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**

NMASA seriously considering proposal of marketing expert

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Northern Marianas Amateurs Sports Association is seriously considering the marketing strategy a Fiji

Olympic committee official designed to make NMASA grow.

Atma Maharaj, secretary general and vice president for sponsorship and marketing of the Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee, made an almost hour-long presentation

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Atma Maharaj, left, secretary general and vice president for sponsorship and marketing of the Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee, gestures during a presentation while CNMI National Football Team coach Sugao Kambe listens during the monthly NMASA meeting last Thursday night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**